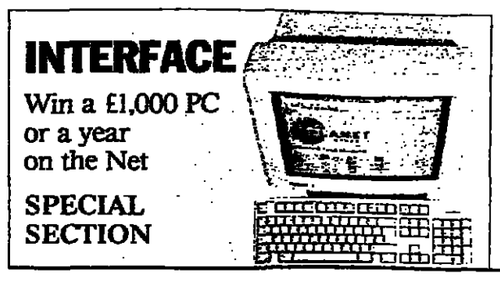
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THE TIMES

30p

No. 65,449 WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13 1995



INTERFACE
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Seat at risk after MP dies

Major faced with majority of just three

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Government was last night facing the likelihood of its Commons majority being cut to three in the new year after the sudden death of the senior backbencher Sir David Lightbown.

Sir David, MP for Staffordshire South-East, died after collapsing at the Varsity rugby match at Twickenham.

His majority of 7,192 over Labour at the last election looks highly vulnerable and many Conservative MPs accept that they will lose the seat. But Conservative sources said that John Major's determination to fight on until the spring of 1997 would be unaffected, even if the seat is lost.

They pointed out that the Labour Government in October 1974 began with a majority of three and it managed to carry on for almost five years.

Mr Major led the tributes to Sir David, 63, the burly ex-whip who gained a reputation for striking terror into the heart of Tory rebels but was also regarded as a genial and kind personality.

Mr Major said: "David was a splendidly unique character, unmistakable in the corridors and lobbies of the House that was so much part of his life. He was an original."

Senior ministers accepted that the loss of Sir David would make it even more crucial for the Government to avoid contentious legislation and Commons debates which could bring it into conflict with its backbenchers.

The news of Sir David's death came on the day that the Government was reminded of trouble ahead over Europe, as John Redwood, the defeated leadership candidate, began a campaign to persuade business of the disadvantages of a single currency. He found himself immediately opposed by senior Conservatives such as Lord Howe of Aberavon and Sir Leon Brittan, the European commissioner.



Sir David: collapsed and died at the Varsity game

The Prime Minister is walking a tightrope between those in his party who want a pledge to rule out Britain's membership of a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament and those who believe that such a commitment would be disastrous. Ministers admit that any vote that brought the two factions into open warfare cannot be contemplated.

With Sir David's death the majority falls to five. That will drop to four when Labour wins the Hemsworth by-election caused by the death of Derek Enright and three if Labour takes Staffordshire South-East. However, the figure is not as bad as it looks. At the moment Sir Richard Body, the arch Euro-sceptic, is counted as an Opposition MP because he does not take the Conservative whip. Once he applies to rejoin the Tory parliamentary party, as most expect before the election, the Conservative majority will rise by two.

Even so the prospect that the Government may not be able to complete its term has inevitably increased as a result of Sir David's death. If a few more Tory MPs were to die and the Government were to lose a confidence vote, Mr Major would have to go to the country.

But a defeat on a confidence issue would happen only if all the Opposition parties were ranged against the Government. The present fragile position makes it even less likely that Mr Major will risk alienating the Ulster Unionists any further and that their position in the Northern Ireland peace process is strengthened as a result.

If the majority went, Mr Major would almost certainly be able to carry on for some time with a minority government.

When the Conservatives won the 1992 election Mr Major enjoyed a relatively comfortable cushion of 21 seats over all other parties combined. But the Tories have not won a by-election since the contest at Richmond, Yorkshire, in February 1989 — nearly seven years ago.

Major's plea, page 2

EMIL VAS



Lieutenant José Souvignet, left, and Captain Frédéric Chiffot in Zvornik, Bosnia, yesterday after their release from captivity

Joyful return for freed French pilots

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE two French pilots held captive by the Bosnian Serbs for 103 days regained their liberty yesterday and last night walked unsteadily across the tarmac at a military air base outside Paris to receive a hero's welcome from President Chirac.

Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignet were released after intense last-minute negotiations; with their safe arrival on native soil the last remaining impediment to tomorrow's signing of the Bosnia peace agreement in Paris has been lifted.

The two airmen, whose Mirage 2000 jet was shot down over the Bosnian-Serb stronghold of Pale on August 30, were freed yesterday afternoon at Zvornik on the Bosnian frontier in the presence of General Jean-Philippe Douin, the French Army Chief of Staff, and General Ratko Mladic, commander of the Bosnian-Serb forces.

President Chirac and the wives of the two men, Nathalie Chiffot and Isabelle Souvignet, were waiting to greet them as they touched down at Villacoublay military air base last night. The homecoming was broadcast live across France, where the fate of the airmen has evoked a great outpouring of sympathy, anxiety and support for their families. The pilots, appearing healthy but haggard after their long captivity, smiled broadly as they emerged from the aircraft laid on by the French Government to be met by the President and Charles Millon, the Defence Minister. President Chirac then escorted the two officers to the air base terminal where they embraced their wives and families; the families were weeping with relief and exhaustion.

Both men were suffered leg injuries after ejecting from their jet — Lieutenant Souvignet was limping when he emerged from the aircraft that brought them to Paris. On the flight to France they were examined by the President's doctor and after the brief and moving reunion with their families they were taken to a Paris hospital for a full medical check.

Russian pressure, page 13

Move to delay single currency

John Major is to press his European partners at the Madrid summit on Friday to delay introduction of a single currency to beyond the planned starting date of 1999.

In a move aimed partly at averting a fresh bout of Tory civil war over Europe, Mr Major will advocate a detailed inquiry into the practicalities of launching a single currency in three years' time .....Page 2

Plea to pupils by head's widow

The widow of murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence wrote to his pupils yesterday, imploring them to share the ideals of their murdered headmaster.

If his students grew up understanding the difference between right and wrong, his death would not be in vain, Frances Lawrence said in the letter, which was read over the school loudspeakers... Page 6

Elton John award cut as ruling ends libel 'jackpots'

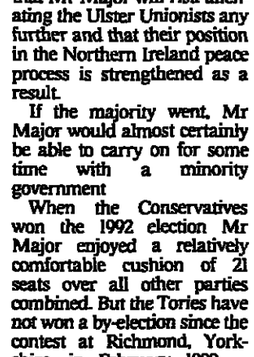
BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A £350,000 libel victory by rock star Elton John two years ago was cut to £75,000 yesterday in a landmark Court of Appeal ruling which could end the jackpot of excessive awards for defamation.

The award had been made after the *Sunday Mirror* had alleged that the songwriter was hooked on a bizarre "diet of death" which was a form of the slimmers' disease bulimia.

The Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, said that the huge awards made by juries in libel cases bore "no relation to the ordinary values of life." Instead, juries should be given guidance in future by both judge and counsel on what damages to award, against a benchmark of damages in personal injuries cases.

At the top end of the scale, this could bring awards down to the average compensation of £125,000 awarded to a quadriplegic for "pain, suffering and loss of amenity." Sir Thomas said it was "offensive to public opinion" that libel winners were awarded more than a "helpless cripple or insensate vegetable."



Elton John: out of pocket after appeal

Nor did it serve any "public purpose to encourage plaintiffs to regard a successful libel action ... as a road to untaxed riches."

The ruling means an end to the current lottery of libel awards which in a series of high-profile cases over the past few years have run into six figures, the highest being £1.5 million to Lord Aldington in his action against Count Tolstoy.

Judges in the past have given no guidance on what might be thought reasonable, Sir Thomas said. Juries were left to pluck figures from the air, like "sheep loosed on an unfenced common with no shepherd". In future, he said,

Continued on page 2, col 6

Bottomley warning to lottery watchdog

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE National Lottery regulator will be told by Virginia Bottomley to distance himself from lottery companies after his admission that he accepted free flights from one of the main bidders prompted calls for an investigation yesterday.

The Commons committee that questioned Peter Davis for five hours on Monday has demanded more details of the five flights he took during last year. Several MPs on the Public Accounts Committee said they were astonished by Mr Davis's admission that he had taken the flights to save taxpayers' money.

Although none called publicly for his resignation, several MPs predicted that any further damaging revelations would make his position untenable. Jack Cunningham, Labour's Shadow National Heritage Secretary, called on Mrs Bottomley to investigate Mr Davis's conduct.

Dr Cunningham wrote to Mrs Bottomley: "Serious questions have been raised about GTech. It is not clear that the regulator is in a position to deal with them."

Richard Branson, chairman of the Virgin Group, yesterday challenged GTech to sue him over his allegations that its chairman, Guy Snowden, offered him a bribe not to put in a rival bid to run the lottery.

Mr Branson told Radio 4's *Today* programme: "I would suggest to GTech, since they are accusing me of lying, that they ought to issue writs today and let's let the courts decide who is telling the truth."

Robert Rendine, public rela-

Continued on page 2, col 6

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On-the-spot fines of £40 for noisy neighbours

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

ROWDY neighbours will face instant fines of £40 if they refuse to heed warnings to tone down night-time revelry under a government crackdown announced last night.

But Christmas revellers can have one loud final fling. The new offence will require legislation, which the Government cannot introduce until after the New Year celebrations. It will apply to noises ranging from portable music systems to domestic machinery. The noise must exceed 35 decibels when measured in the complainant's house. The offence must take place between 11pm and 7am and persistent offenders could be fined up to £1,000.

Complainants can ring their local council. If the noise exceeds the limit, the culprits will be given a warning by health authority officer. If they ignore the warnings they could be fined.

The Department of the Environment said that 35 decibels is equivalent to the amount of noise generated by a television or radio in a room with closed windows on a busy street. It is also the standard set by the World Health Organisation as "necessary for the restorative process of sleep".

Other measures dealing with noise will include giving councils the power to confiscate music systems.

The announcement was made by James Clappison, the junior Environment Minister. "This measure represents a step step forward in tackling the problems of noise nuisance from domestic premises," he said.

The measures come after a growing number of complaints about noisy neighbours. The complaints average more than 300 a day nationwide. Court proceedings are unable to curtail night-time carousing. But the new fines still don't go as far as Labour proposals. They have promised legislation, which could mean a jail sentence of up to seven years.

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THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

The 11th commandment: Thou shalt not be blunt

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

The Official Report confirms it. Yesterday Madam Speaker approved it. Moments before 10pm on Monday and, so far as we know, for the first time in history, the Chair permitted an Hon Member to call another Hon Member a liar.

Well, nearly. Modern versions of the Ten Commandments certainly render "bear false witness" as "lie". During Monday's debate on the second reading of the Asylum and Immigration Bill, an enraged Home Office Minister of State, Ann Widdecombe, applied the term to the Liberal Democrats' David Alton (Mossley Hill). Miss Widdecombe did not lack provocation.

In a cheap and tasteless attack on the Home Secretary, Mr Alton had suggested that Michael Howard would have sent his own family back to Romania. The implication was that Howard's forebears, who were Jewish, would not have been granted asylum today because his new Bill places Romania on the Government's "white list" of inoffensive regimes.

But of course, Romania as it was would not be placed on any white list, so Alton's jibe was offside. He went on to quote, unctuously, from Exodus: "Do not ill-treat an alien or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt."

Widdecombe's rage was plain. "He had the gall," she spat, "having launched that false attack, to quote Scripture. May I quote it back? *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*"

This prompted the quick-minded Gerry Bermingham (Lab, St Helens South), a sharp-tongued barrister whose wheedling manner suggests a role as one of Westminster's Sadducees, to leap to his feet. "On a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker ... has not the Hon Lady just called the Hon Member a liar? Should she not withdraw that remark immediately?"

It is quite true that in the chamber no MP should ever call another MP a liar. Indeed, "hardly credible" was ruled out of order in 1881, "dishonest evasion" in 1945, "twister" in 1967 and "forked tongue" in 1978. The Chair has been uncompromising. The closest anyone has come to getting under the wire was in 1988 ("shameless lack of candour") and 1946 ("devoid of any truth").

In the 18th century, Richard Brinsley Sheridan MP (the playwright), ordered to withdraw the word "liar", retorted: "Mr Speaker, I said the Hon Member was a liar it is true and I am sorry for it. The Hon Member may place the punctuation where he pleases". Sheridan got away with this and with "the Right Hon Gentleman is indebted to his memory for his jests and to his imagination for his facts". But as we noted last week, even "porkies" was ruled out in 1992.

So when Mr Bermingham returned to the charge during points of order yesterday, seeking the judgment of Madam Speaker herself on her Deputy's permissiveness the previous day, he expected teacher to take his side.

Not so. Miss Betty Boothroyd took Dame Janet Fookes's side. She had looked at the record, she said, but had not placed Mr Bermingham's construction on what was said. Bermingham came fizzing to his feet a second time. Did that mean that as long as he quoted the Bible or Shakespeare, he protested, he could call people what he liked?

Miss Boothroyd muttered something soothing about us all having to rub along together as best we can and to take a tolerant view, etc. Bermingham subsided, spluttering.

"The quality of mercy is not strained," cackled Dennis Skinner.

PM will urge Madrid summit to stop and think before risking a split in the Union

Major puts brakes on Europe's drive for single currency

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN MAJOR is to press his European partners at the Madrid summit on Friday to delay introduction of a single currency beyond the planned starting date of 1999.

In a move aimed partly at averting a fresh bout of Tory civil war over Europe, Mr Major will confront powerful European states by advocating a detailed inquiry into the practicalities of launching a single currency in three years' time.

Mr Major hopes that an inner core of likely candidates for a single currency led by Germany will be deterred from going ahead once they appreciate the friction that would be generated by divisive, competitive devaluations by other countries outside the core.

He will urge that the study covers the impact on the European Union single market, the agricultural policy, and the "cohesiveness" of the EU in the event of a handful of countries breaking away to launch a single currency.

He will argue that the present timetable is unrealistic. And although he expects the final communiqué to reaffirm January 1 1999 as the starting date he hopes to have started a process that will lead eventually to delay.

Senior ministers believe that despite the current difficulties in France Chancellor Kohl and Jacques Chirac are personally determined to go ahead with a single currency and that the British Government must act on that expectation.

Ruling out membership of a single currency, as most sceptics want, would make it harder for Britain to warn its partners off the idea, they say.

Mr Major's negotiating stance at Madrid was disclosed as the fragile internal truce over Europe was again upset. John Redwood triggered renewed of internal feuding over a single currency by publishing a booklet condemning the idea as a recipe for political and economic "turmoil".

The former Cabinet minister also renewed his call for the Prime Minister to rule out a single currency in the five-year lifetime of the next Parliament — which would mean Britain could not join until after 2002 if the Tories won the election.

Mr Redwood's warning that a single currency would emasculate Parliament, rob the Chancellor of much of his control over taxes and spending, and risk job losses and permanently low rates of economic growth provoked a fierce riposte from leading pro-Europeans.

Tory party officials said that Mr Redwood's decision to speak out was a mistake because it could only inflame tensions within Conservative ranks. A statement issued by Lord Howe of Aberavon, the former Foreign Secretary, Sir Leon Brittan, the UK's senior European Commissioner, and Lord Kingsdown, formerly Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, said that Mr Redwood's call for the Government to fight the next election on an anti-EMU ticket was "profoundly mistaken".

The statement said: "Any Conservative manifesto commitment against a single currency would inevitably divide the party, fuelling its electoral difficulties. It would set the Conservative leadership against major parts of UK business and finance, undermining the party's political base. Most importantly, it would deny any future Conservative government the capacity to share in what may prove one of the most important economic developments of coming decades.

"Once the Conservative party starts down the anti-EMU road, there is no going back. You cannot credibly chastise your opponents for wanting to 'abolish the pound' at one election and then say your considered judgment is in favour of joining a single currency at the next.

"Opposing EMU for one Parliament would be tantamount to engineering a permanent and radical shift in the Conservative party against EMU. The Eurosceptics understand this, which is why they want it so much."

After his meeting in Florence last week with Lamberto Dini, the Italian Prime Minister, Mr Major believes that he may have found an important ally. While Italy wants to join a single currency, it recognises that its economy will not be in shape to do so by 1999. For this reason, Mr Major thinks he may have Italian backing for a study, the outcome of which is likely to delay the timetable.

Mr Major appears to have moved against a pledge to rule Britain out of a single currency. Well-placed sources say that he is playing for bigger stakes. His aim is eventually to persuade his partners to abandon the idea of monetary union for the foreseeable future.

Such an outcome, he believes, would serve British interests better than the isolation and discord that would flow from standing aloof from a single currency involving an inner core of countries centred on Germany.

Mr Redwood said at a press conference launching his booklet that he believed that France and Germany were "looking to bend the rules" over the conditions for joining a single currency.

He urged the Prime Minister to ensure that the criteria — covering public sector debt and borrowing, inflation, interest rates and exchange rate stability — were the "bare minimum". He added: "There should be no dilution at all."



John Major's advisers believe Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac are determined on a single currency

Lottery

Continued from page 1

tions director of GTech, said that Mr Snowden was so disturbed by the allegations that he had decided to "take a break" outside London for a few days. Although Mr Rendine insisted that Mr Branson's allegations about Mr Snowden were "grossly defamatory and completely untrue", he said the company was still consulting its lawyers: "Mr Branson has waited two years to come out with his evil smear, I think that the public will allow us more than two days to respond."

Mr Davis was not available for comment yesterday but a spokeswoman for Oflot said that he was still consulting Oflot's legal advisers about Mr Branson's claim that he had informed the regulator about a bribery attempt by GTech. Mrs Bottomley is said to be relaxed about this allegation made by Mr Branson. "She finds it odd that these allegations should be made two years after the event," said a colleague.

Mr Davis was appointed in 1993 by Peter Brook, the former Heritage Secretary. His priority is to licence each National Lottery game and to monitor its operation.

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Damages cut

Continued from page 1

counsel in the case and the trial judge can put figures to the jury "to reflect the upper and lower bounds of a realistic bracket".

Libel awards are now likely to be brought into line with compensation made for personal injuries: an average £125,000 for quadriplegia; £90,000 for loss of sight; and £50,000 for loss of a limb.

Although many damages awards top £1m, these sums include special damages, which takes account of loss of earnings and the cost of nursing care. The recent "structured settlement" awards also run to millions but are paid over many years.

Yesterday's judgment was a victory for Mirror Group Newspapers which challenged the award under a new avenue of appeal against libel awards introduced by Lord Mackay of Clashfern under the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990.

But Elton John has been left out of pocket, as the £75,000 award goes nowhere near covering his estimated legal costs of £120,000. He will also have to bear half the costs of the appeal (another £60,000) because he failed make any offer to accept a lower sum.

The award to Elton John in November 1993 included £275,000 "exemplary" damages to punish the *Sunday Mirror* for publishing a totally untrue story. Jurors accepted his claim that the story was printed recklessly without regard to the truth and with the main eye on boosting sales of the newspaper for profit.

But payment of the rarely awarded punitive damages was suspended pending an appeal by Mirror Group Newspapers, and yesterday the appeal judges held that the total award was "manifestly excessive".

They cut the exemplary award to £50,000. This, they said, was sufficient to reflect the gravity of the newspaper's conduct and deter others. They also reduced the remaining £75,000 compensatory award to £25,000. Although the article was false, offensive and distressing, it did not attack the star's personal integrity or damage his reputation as an artist, the court ruled.

Peter Carter-Ruck, the libel lawyer, said the ruling would have a "very salutary effect" on the size of libel awards. But he criticised the award of costs which lands Elton John out of pocket. "There should be a suitors' fund paid for out of court fees which can fund appeals," he said.

Judges block railway sell-off

The sale of the first two BR passenger franchises was blocked by the Appeal Court yesterday as the contracts were about to be signed.

After a late appeal from campaigners against the sell-off, three judges said they were not ready to rule on the issue until Friday and that in the meantime no franchise contracts were to be signed. BR had been planning to hand over control of LTS Rail and South West Trains.

The Save Our Railways group claims BR has acted illegally in setting minimum service requirements for private operators.

Naomi inquest

Naomi Smith died of shock after her throat had been cut, an inquest at Nuneaton heard yesterday. She had been sexually attacked. The 15-year-old was killed after leaving her home in Ansley Common, Warwickshire, to post a letter just 100 yards away. A 19-year-old local man has been charged with murder and the inquest was adjourned pending the outcome of his trial.

Veal calf victory

Animal charities won the right in the High Court yesterday to challenge in the European Court of Justice the Government's refusal to ban veal calf exports. The Agriculture Minister says it would breach EU rules if he stopped the trade on welfare grounds. The RSPCA, Compassion in World Farming and International Fund for Animal Welfare say he has misinterpreted EU law.

Strangler jailed

A 20-stone man who strangled his girlfriend with one hand while he drove with the other was jailed for manslaughter for 12 years by Inner London Crown Court. Steven Parr, 38, of Wimbledon, said he killed Lorraine Spice by accident while trying to fight her off during an argument. He had previous convictions for violence against his former wife and for having a sawn-off shotgun.

Road go-ahead

The National Trust said it was "gravely concerned" after the Government gave the go-ahead for the five-mile Chideock to Morecombelake A35 bypass through ancient meadows on protected Dorset coastline. John Watts, the Roads Minister, said environmental interests were being safeguarded by downgrading the road through the Golden Cap estate from dual to single carriageway.

Child's courage

Jaymee Bowen, whose fight against leukaemia as Child B touched the nation, received an award for her courage. Jaymee, 11, from Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, was presented with a Children of Courage medal by the Duchess of Kent at Westminster Abbey. Jaymee's plight was highlighted when Cambridgeshire Health Authority refused to fund her treatment.

Hamster's fare

A bus driver made a boy pay a 45p fare for a hamster he was carrying in a cage. Wayne Bass, 11, of Sheldon, Birmingham, was returning the animal to school at Solihull after the weekend. His own fare was 36p. The bus company, West Midlands Travel, later apologised and said that it would issue the hamster, called Sweep, with a free travel pass.

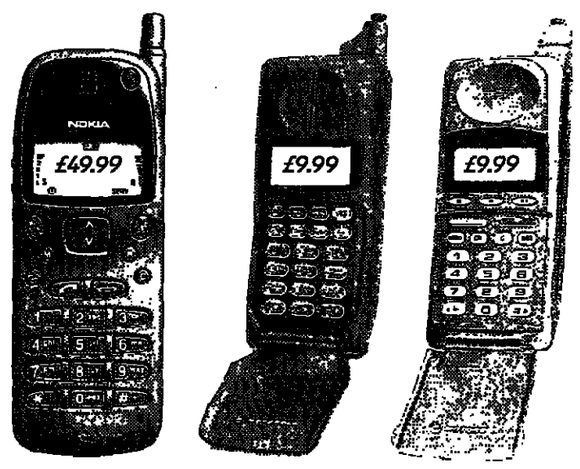
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For winter 1995 we are proud to introduce the SS Mahasan paddle steamer. The vessel (designated the SS Time Machine) was built for King Farouk of Egypt and has now been authentically restored to its 1930s motif. Some aspects will appeal to travellers who are sympathetic to the theme and conditions of compact but comfortable cabins.

The programme for the SS Mahasan has been carefully designed to evoke the atmosphere of the early 1930s thus allowing guests to discover Egypt both past and present. The itinerary allows you to see the natural beauty of the Nile and the ancient civilisation of Egypt whilst enjoying period style and modern facilities. To glide down the tranquil waters of the Nile at a stately pace, with just 36 fellow passengers on board, has got to be one of the best ways of spending a week away from a grey British winter.

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

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Police set up helpline for women

Life for rapist who may have claimed up to 100 victims

By Michael Horsnell

A MAN believed to be one of Britain's worst serial rapists, with up to 100 victims, received five life sentences at the Old Bailey yesterday. Last night detectives set up a special help line and appealed for other women attacked by Victor Willoughby to come forward.

For 12 months Willoughby, 30, often posing as a cab-driver, had haunted night buses and scoured the streets for victims. He was told by the Common Serjeant of London, Judge Neil Denison, that his attacks on eight women at the centre of sample charges "were all of the most appalling ferocity".

Detective Superintendent Duncan MacRae described Willoughby after his conviction as "the most dangerous serial sex offender I have ever come across".

He said: "We are dealing with the tip of the iceberg. We have already investigated 17 rapes and I wouldn't be surprised if the total went into three figures. We believe out there are more of his victims and we clearly would like to hear from them. We trust that because of the conviction and sentence they will feel able to come forward."

Police have set up a helpline (0181-733 3842) staffed by women officers familiar with the case. Two of his victims, both students, joined the police appeal for other women attacked by Willoughby to come forward.

"It is a difficult thing to do, but we have received sensitive treatment from the police and the court," said one, aged 22. She added that what had happened "has changed me and my life. It has made me rethink everything I do — like walking down the street, going out at night, everything.

"He hasn't stolen anything from me, but he has affected my life for the last year. I was so angry I was determined to go through the court case."

The other victim, aged 21, said her ordeal had made her more cautious, but had not altered her trust and relationships with men. "If you judge every man on what Willoughby did, you would lead a very shallow life," she said.

Willoughby, watched by the two women, showed no emotion as the jury convicted him of four rapes, a buggery, three indecent assaults, false imprisonment, robbery, attempted robbery and dangerous driving — at one point he had escaped a police surveillance operation by speeding off at 100mph. His campaign began two months after his release from prison in 1993 for a previous assault and was centred in the area surrounding Willesden Green underground station in northwest London.



Willoughby: stalked women late at night

The judge said that Willoughby, from Tottenham, north London, was convicted on overwhelming evidence. He received life sentences for each of the rapes and the buggery, which occurred between October 1993 and October 1994, and was jailed for ten years for the indecent assaults, ten for false imprisonment, eight for robbery and attempted robbery and 12 months for dangerous driving — all to run concurrently.

His victims, aged between 16 and 47, had all been on their way home after an evening out and were subjected to degrading sexual assaults. One remembered the distinct smell of a hair gel during her ordeal. When arrested, Willoughby had the same sort of gel in his hair, a sample of which was matched by DNA testing to semen found after several of the attacks.

In some attacks the hooded rapist hid behind bushes or in the shadows and pounced on his victims from behind, dragging them into alleyways and, on one occasion, into a churchyard. He threatened violence and "each woman was so frightened they offered relatively no resistance", said Nigel Sweeney, for the prosecution. Only one woman managed to fight him off.

Because so many of the rapes were committed within a half mile radius of Willesden Green Underground station, police took to discreetly following lone women home in case Willoughby struck. The hourly night bus that came through the area was regularly tailed by unmarked police cars and plain-clothed women officers were deployed in an attempt to lure him into striking.

Willoughby lived with his common-law wife, who suspected nothing, and their two-year-old daughter. The jury took just two hours to find him unanimously guilty of all charges.

□ A male juror was discharged during the trial after one of the rape victims said she thought he was following her. As Willoughby was led to the cells, Judge Denison told the remaining five women and six men that he had discharged the juror because one witness thought he had been following her during a lunch adjournment. Police are investigating.



Watching her figure: a longing glance from Dr Kissinger as the Princess moves a plate of chocolates beyond reach of temptation

Long reach of the Prince and Princess

By Quentin Letts in New York and Emma Wilkins

THE Prince of Wales went on to the Internet with a speech about ethics and the environment yesterday, just hours after his estranged wife burst into turn-of-the-century poetry to collect a Humanitarian of the Year award. Both foresaw a kinder world.

At St James's Palace, the fifth anniversary meeting of the Prince's Business Leaders Forum attracted more than 200 businessmen from 26 countries to hear speakers including Baroness Chalker, the Overseas Development Minister and Jonathon Porritt, the environmentalist.

The Prince's high-tech speech told how co-operation from business had brought millions of pounds for social and environmental projects in developing countries, so that his organisation should no longer be described as experimental.

The Princess of Wales was arriving back from New York by Concorde, after collecting the humanitarian award for her charity work, at an £850-a-head event for 1,000 guests in aid of the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation. The Princess, had worn a figure-hugging black evening gown with a plunging scoop neckline, brushed off a woman who heckled during her acceptance speech.



On line: the Internet site displaying a message from the Prince

The woman interrupted by shouting: "Where are your children, Diana?" The Princess calmly replied: "At school."

The Princess said she was humbled by the award which she wished to shared with parents, nurses, doctores and charity workers throughout the world. She then quoted the American poet Ella Wheeler Wilcox, best known for her lines: "Laugh and the world laughs with you; Weep, and you weep alone." On this occasion, she chose a four-line verse. *The World's Need*, which says: "So many Gods, so many creeds, So many paths that wind and wind, While just the art of being kind Is all the sad world needs."

In a confident speech, the Princess said: "There are two basic ingredients that define us as human beings — sharpness of mind and kindness of heart. Today is the day of compassion. Let's not wait to be prompted. Let us demonstrate our humanity now. Let us not wait to be asked."

Guests at the event included Dr Henry Kissinger, General Colin Powell, Donald and Marla Trump, the TV journalist Barbara Walters, Randolph Hearst, and Sir John Kerr, the British ambassador.

Dr Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State, greeted the Princess with a kiss and praised her "luminous personality".

He said: "She is here as a member of the Royal Family. But we are honouring the Princess in her own right, having aligned herself with the ill, the suffering and the downtrodden."

Afterwards, the woman who had heckled at the dinner told reporters that she made the remark because she could no longer bear to be "lectured by the Princess on humanitarian issues".

Dr Ruth Westheimer, the diminutive American sex therapist who took the opportunity to be introduced to the Princess, took a further opportunity for promotion by telling reporters: "I'm there if the Princess ever feels the need to talk."

Soldier admitted killing Danish guide in Cyprus

From Michael Theodoulou in Larnaca

ONE of three British soldiers accused of killing a Danish woman admitted doing so in a statement read by police in court yesterday.

In the statement, Alan Ford, 26, of Birmingham, described in detail how Louise Jensen, 23, a tour guide, from Hirthals, was battered to death with a spade after she was kidnapped near the southeast tourist resort of Ayia Napa on the night of September 12 last year.

"I was very scared and very drunk," Ford said in a statement he signed two days after the killing. "I couldn't think rationally. I don't remember picking up the spade but I hit her on the head with the flat side just hard enough to knock her unconscious.

"It didn't work as she shouted something in [a] foreign [language]. Up until then I didn't even know where she was from. I hit her again and she slumped sideways.

"I know she wasn't dead because I could still hear her breathing. She looked like she was asleep. There didn't appear to be any blood on her at that point."

Ford then tried to implicate the other two accused, who were with him at the time, adding that "somebody grabbed the spade and pushed me away. Stunned, I couldn't move and my eyes would not look away from her face, then the spade hit her, I think her neck, and again and again . . . I didn't look who was hitting her."

The statement went on to describe how Miss Jensen was hurriedly buried by the three accused in a shallow grave in a field. Her battered and naked body was found two days later when the accused led police to the site.

The three soldiers were arrested at a police roadblock with bloodstains on their clothes about 90 minutes after Miss Jensen's Cypriot boyfriend reported her abduction. They have pleaded not guilty to manslaughter, kidnapping and conspiracy to rape.

The other accused are Justin Fowler, 26, of Falmouth, Cornwall, and Jeff Parnell, 23, of Oldbury, West Midlands. All three were in the dock as a police officer read the statement.

Ford's lawyer claimed the statement was inadmissible on the grounds that he had not been read his rights and that he was tricked into making it. The three-judge court overruled him.

The trial continues.

Schoolgirl's killer 'had fantasies about the dead'

By Kate Alderson

THE killer of schoolgirl Nikki Conroy fantasised about necrophilia, applied three times to be a mortuary attendant and wrote a novel featuring maidens slain in a classroom, a court was told yesterday.

Stephen Wilkinson, 31, has denied murdering Nikki, 12, at Hall Garth school in Middlesbrough in March 1994 but has admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility and the attempted murders of Emma Winter, 12, and Michelle Reeve, 13.

On the second day of the trial at Leeds Crown Court, Dr Laurence Naismith, a consultant psychiatrist who interviewed Wilkinson in custody, said he believed the accused had paranoid psychosis. Called as a defence witness, he told the court: "I would take the view that this did not substantially diminish his responsibility for his actions." He agreed with the prosecution under cross-examination that Wilkinson was "very severely mentally ill in March 1994".

During the meetings, Wilkinson talked about the violent fantasies in his head and in his voluminous poems, short stories and other papers. He told the doctor he had never fantasised about harming children but Dr Naismith identified passages in his writings where "children are clearly harmed".

He read passages to the court from a short story written in December 1986 called *That Tears Shall Drown the Wind*. The story included the lines: "How I loathe adolescents". "If I had been stronger I would have taken my knife to stab the insulent [sic] wretches. I would have marched into the classroom and silenced their tongues forever", and "I imagined the desks of young maidens slaine [sic] in a room choked with their desks."

Dr Naismith added that Wilkinson had written an *Ode to Necrophilia* and had applied on three occasions for the post of a mortuary attendant. He described Wilkinson as a man who had had no sexual experiences, could not relate to other children at school and began playing truant regularly from the age of 13. He left school at 16, the same year his parents split up. He lived with his father for many years at the family home in Middlesbrough and retreated into his bedroom and read *Macbeth*, *Crime and Punishment* and James Herbert horror novels.

The trial continues.

Horn player tells of pact with lover

By Emma Wilkins

A MOTHER told a jury yesterday that she fulfilled a lovers' pact by abandoning the body of an elderly trombonist after he died in compromising circumstances.

Pollyanna Peate, 34, from Runcorn, Cheshire, who is accused of the manslaughter of Brian Phillips, 62, said he gave strict instructions that if anything happened to him while they were together, she should leave immediately.

Mrs Peate, who is married with two children, told Chester Crown Court that she regularly made love with Mr Phillips after they left evening rehearsals of the Frodsham Silver Band. Mrs Peate plays the euphonium and her lover was a trombonist. It is alleged that Mrs Peate struck Mr Phillips at least four times, dislodging his dentures and causing a black eye, after he told her their ten-year relationship was over.

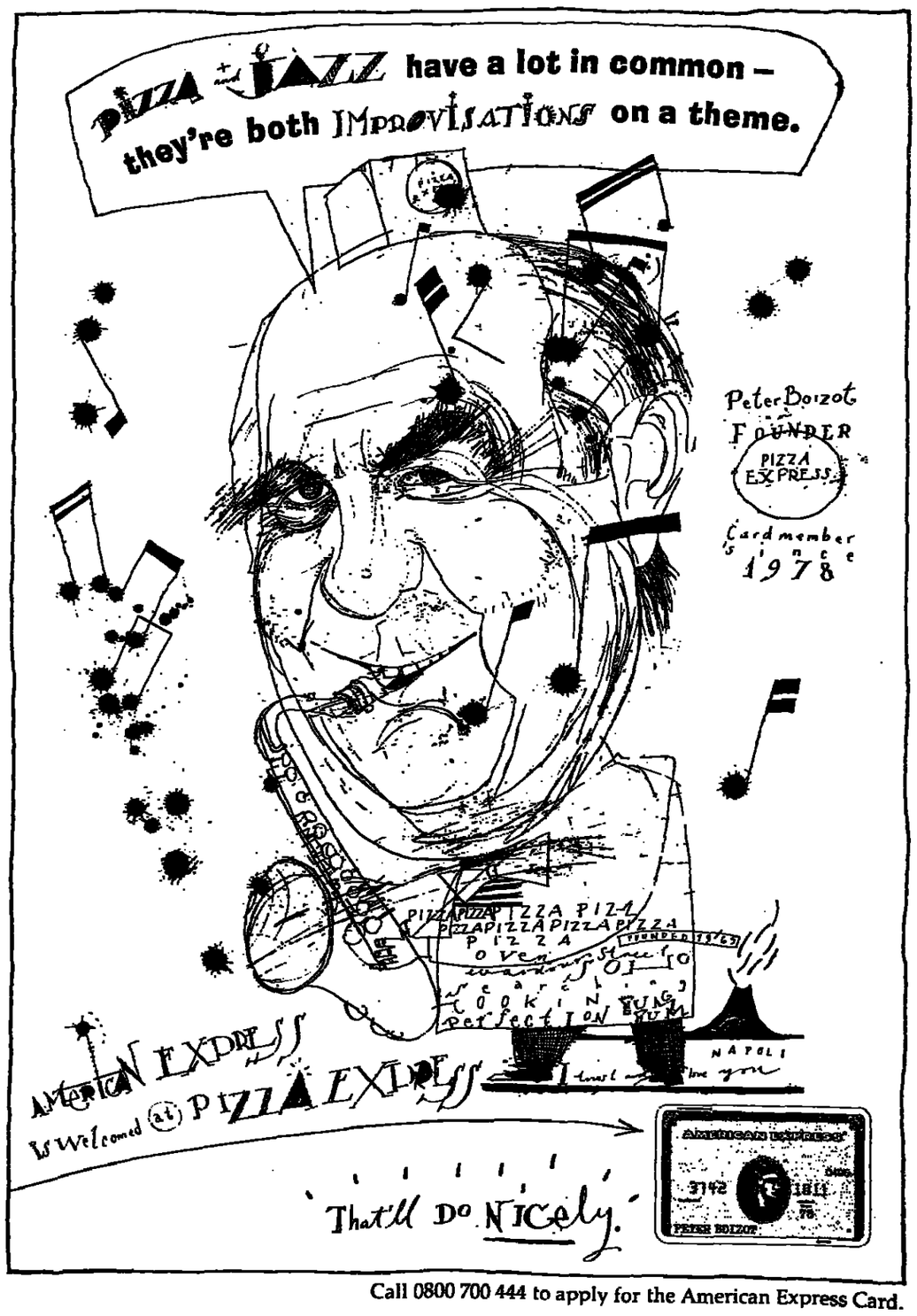
Mr Phillips, a grandfather, suffered a heart attack and died. His body was found by a policeman on the back seat of his car which was parked on Frodsham marshes, near the Mersey Estuary.

Mrs Peate, who denies manslaughter, told the court that she was reluctant to agree to the pact with Mr Phillips. "He told me to leave him, take money from his pocket for a taxi, run like hell and not tell anyone. I did say once I could not do it and he said, 'If you love me you would carry out what I ask.'"

Mrs Peate met Mr Phillips ten years ago when he was a visiting player with the Western Point Band, of which she was a member. "He was there when I went to rehearsals. I liked him when I first saw him," she said. A romantic relationship had soon begun. "He asked me if I wanted to have a blow at Frodsham Silver Band so I agreed.

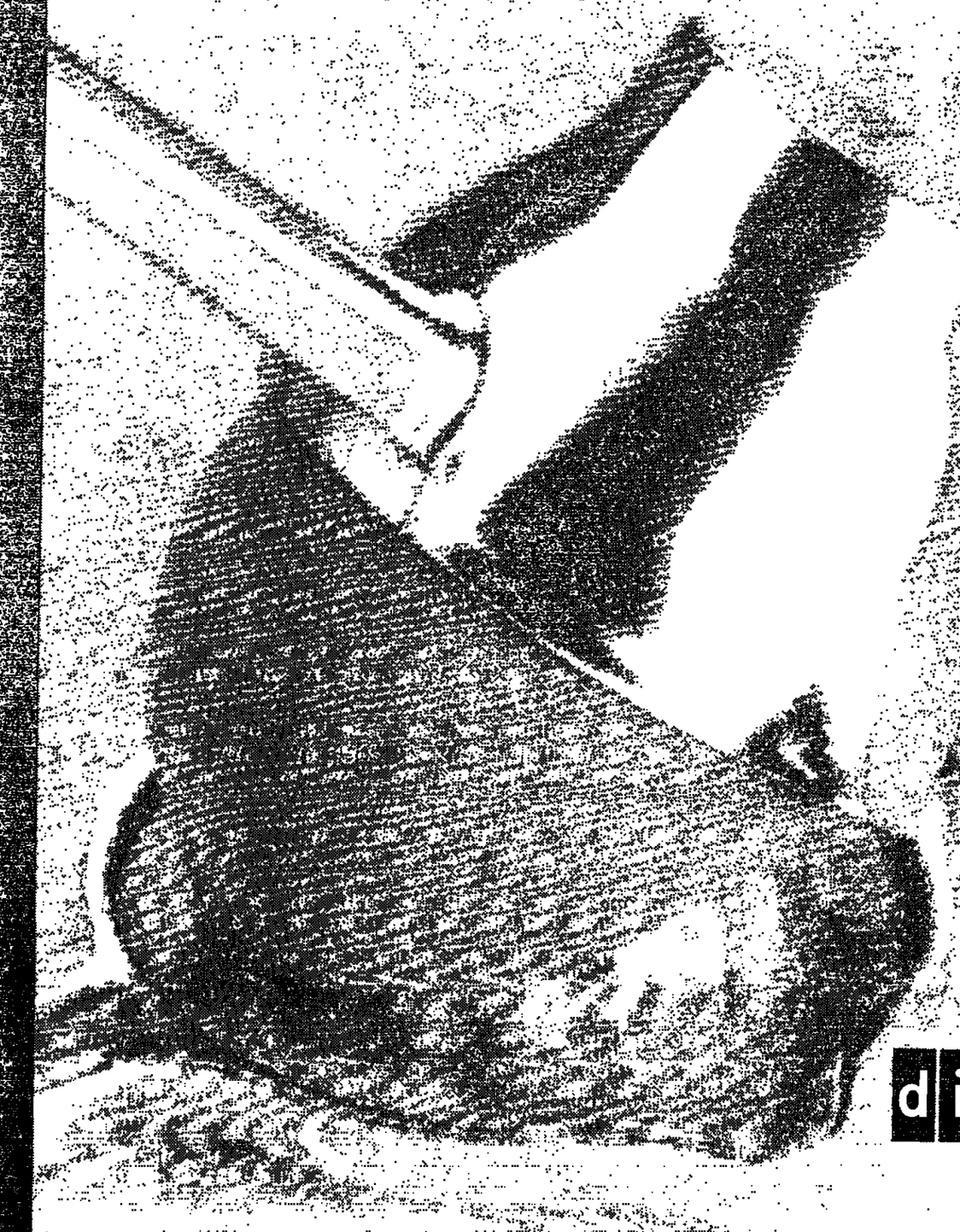
"The first time I had sex with him was at the marshes, in the back of his car, nearly ten years ago. I never had sexual intercourse with him anywhere else," she said. "We would go to the marshes after band practice basically every Monday and Tuesday. We wouldn't always have sexual intercourse."

Dr Edward Tap, a Home Office pathologist, earlier told the court that Mr Phillips's heart condition meant he could have collapsed at any time. "The factor which caused the heart attack cannot be proved beyond reasonable doubt," he said in a letter read out in court. The heart attack could have resulted from a fight or the exertions of sexual activity. The trial continues.



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هكذا من الأصل

Doctors condemn alcohol advice

Dorrell advises the middle-aged to start drinking

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Government raised recommended safe drinking levels yesterday and for the first time suggested that middle-aged abstainers might be healthier for a daily drink.

The new advice, based on evidence that moderate drinkers live longer and are less likely to die from heart disease, was not "a boozer's charter", Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, said. The purpose was simply to ensure that people should be properly informed about the sensible use of alcohol.

The new limits were welcomed by the drinks industry, but attacked by the British Medical Association as 'irresponsible and badly timed".

The advice, contained in a report from an inter-departmental working party, is that there are no health risks for men over 40 in drinking up to four units of alcohol a day, and for women up to three units a day. The old limits were set at 21 units a week for men, and 14 for women. A unit is a glass of wine or half a pint of beer.

Establishing a daily rather than a weekly benchmark is designed to discourage "binge drinking" and makes the point that, while regular moderate drinking has health benefits, concentrating all the units into the weekend is dangerous.

Mr Dorrell denied that the message could be confusing at a time when the Government was also campaigning against drink-driving. "It doesn't change the obvious," he said. "If you are at work, dealing with dangerous equipment, or driving, the safe intake is none. Otherwise, people are entitled to know what the science says about the safe level of alcohol consumption."

The working party, chaired by Geoffrey Podger, head of the Health Promotion Division at the Department of Health, considered a wide variety of studies that have shown that moderate drinking can be beneficial to health, particularly in countries where heart disease is a major cause of death.

While heavy drinking has been linked to many diseases, including cirrhosis of the liver, some cancers, and high blood pressure, moderate drinking reduces the risk of heart disease, which kills about 71,000 a year in Britain. The working party concluded that both men and women could achieve maximum benefit by drinking between one and two units a day.

The damaging effects did not become apparent until four units a day for men, and three for women, with much lower limits appropriate for pregnant women.

The most surprising conclusion, however, is that middle-aged people who do not drink should "consider the possibility that light drinking might benefit their health". This is believed to be the first time that any official body anywhere has dared to hint that non-drinkers should consider starting.

Dr John Rae, director of the Portman Group, a drinks industry initiative against alcohol abuse, said: "The Government has got it exactly right. I really do think this report is a good reflection of the medical evidence. But people shouldn't read it as a licence to drink more — it is advice to drink more sensibly."

Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA Council, said that the message was confusing and unhelpful and would be misunderstood and misinterpreted by the public. "Whatever the intention of the Government, relaxing the sensible drinking limits a week after the launch of the Christmas drink-driving campaign is both irresponsible and badly timed." Mr Dorrell said that once the report had been completed, he could see no logic in suppressing it because of the time of year. "I could have got the report and sat on it," he said, "but people are entitled to know what it says."

Dr Peter Anderson, of the World Health Organisation, attacked the new limits. He said they gave him grave concern because it was very likely that people would interpret the message as being that it was safe or even desirable to drink more than they already did.

"In my opinion the scientific evidence would show that if you are drinking at those levels of alcohol consumption, you are very likely to put your health at risk," he said.

Leading article, page 19



Dorrell: said advice was not a boozer's charter

Million Britons face the party season with fear

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST one million Britons face a miserable time this Christmas. The colleague in the corner getting quietly plastered at the office party may not just be shy but suffering from a psychiatric disorder — social phobia — which affects 3 per cent of the population.

The condition, which can make meeting strangers, walking into a restaurant or even signing a cheque in public a terrifying ordeal, was described by specialists yesterday at a news conference to launch an advice leaflet published by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Professor Malcolm Lader of the Institute of Psychiatry said the festive season was a particularly difficult time. The disorder can wreck lives but only one in ten sufferers receives treatment.

"Often sufferers will hang around the edges of a party and make excuses that the room is too crowded or hot rather than going in and mingling and having a good time. They often drink heavily to overcome their anxiety.

"It is very different from just being shy. The fear these people have is unreasonable and excessive and manifests itself in symptoms such as trembling, sweating, palpitations, blushing and a dry mouth. The symptoms can get so severe sufferers have panic attacks and think they are having a heart attack. They will get pins and needles in their hands, pains in their chest and think they are going to die."

In extreme cases, the social phobic may be unable to eat with anyone else or write a cheque in public without their hand shaking so violently that the writing becomes illegible. Sufferers believe that they are being scrutinised and evaluated whenever they go out and may withdraw from all social contact.

Professor Lader said the condition often appeared in the mid-teens and could last a lifetime. Sufferers were likely to be labelled as stupid or lazy at school, to have difficulty forming relationships and often drank heavily to cope with their fears.

Dr David Clarke of the University of Oxford said patients did not seek treatment because they believed it was a personality problem which they had to bear and that shyness was not something for which a GP could offer help.

However, social phobia is now an accepted medical condition which can be treated with a combination of cognitive therapy — exercises to help sufferers correct the distorted image they have of how they appear to other people — and drug treatment.

Ian Lennard, 36, a former local authority manager from Nottingham, said he had suffered social phobia for 14 years before his condition was recognised and treated.

"I dreaded people saying 'Good morning' because I wouldn't know what to say in reply. I made excuses to avoid going out. Even going to a quiet restaurant with my wife I felt everyone was looking at me. As soon as I lifted my knife and fork I thought everyone would see my hands trembling and they would call an ambulance and take me away in a straitjacket."

□ *The leaflet "Social Phobias" is available free (enclose SAE) from the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG.*



MICHAEL POWELL

Dame Maggie Smith and Patsy Kensit, who presented Molly Dineen's award

Lifetime award for Maggie Smith

The actress Dame Maggie Smith was presented with the Channel 4 Lifetime Achievement Award by Women in Film and Television yesterday. Dame Maggie, who won Oscars for her roles in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and *California Suite*, received the award at a ceremony at the Dorchester in London hosted by Sandi Toksvig. The newsreader Sheena McDonald received the ITN News and Current Affairs award and other winners included the film-maker Molly Dineen, who was honoured for her contribution to broadcasting. Women in Film and Television was set up to mark the achievements of women in both fields.

French pest finds bottom line of law

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A MAN who touched a woman's bottom in the street offered a special mitigation yesterday: he is French.

Marcel Boisson, a ski instructor, had "slightly different standards so far as these things are concerned", said Craig Robertson, appearing for him at York Magistrates' Court. "She smiled at him. He was excited by it and patted her on the outside of her skirt, nothing more."

Boisson, of Lacobe, in southwest France, admitted a charge of indecent assault. Mike Duffy, for the prosecution, said that the blonde woman had a different version of the events of Monday evening, in which Boisson followed her, grabbed her bottom and was detained by a member of the public after she screamed.

The case was adjourned until Friday to hear the woman's evidence. Boisson, who was due to return to France tomorrow, was ordered to stay at a bail hostel in the city until he is sentenced.

THE WEEKEND STARTS HERE



FRIDAY IN THE TIMES

Your chance to win a Caribbean cruise for two

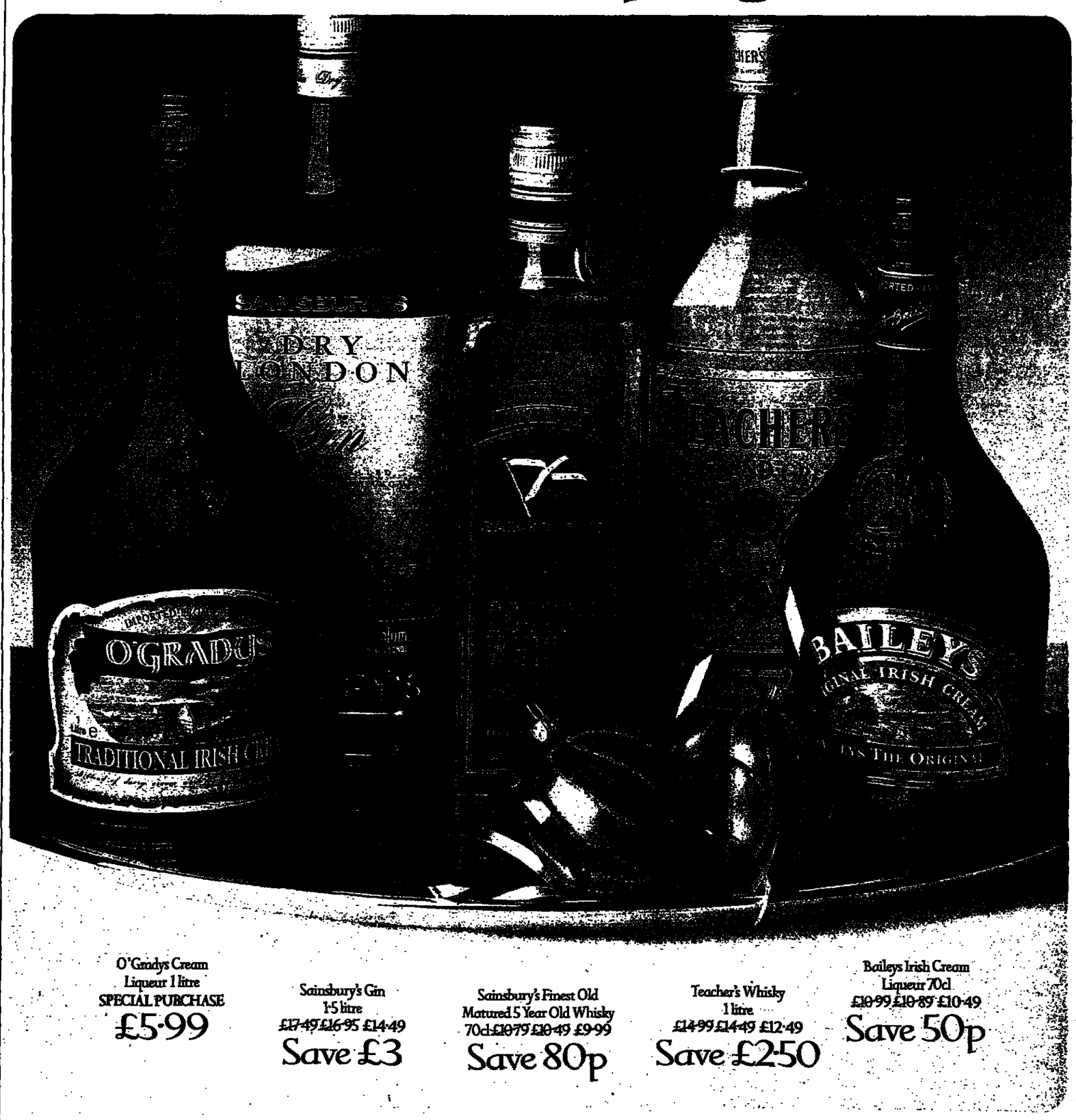
SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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'I trust you to work to create a world in which goodness is never again destroyed by evil'

Wife tells pupils head's death need not be in vain

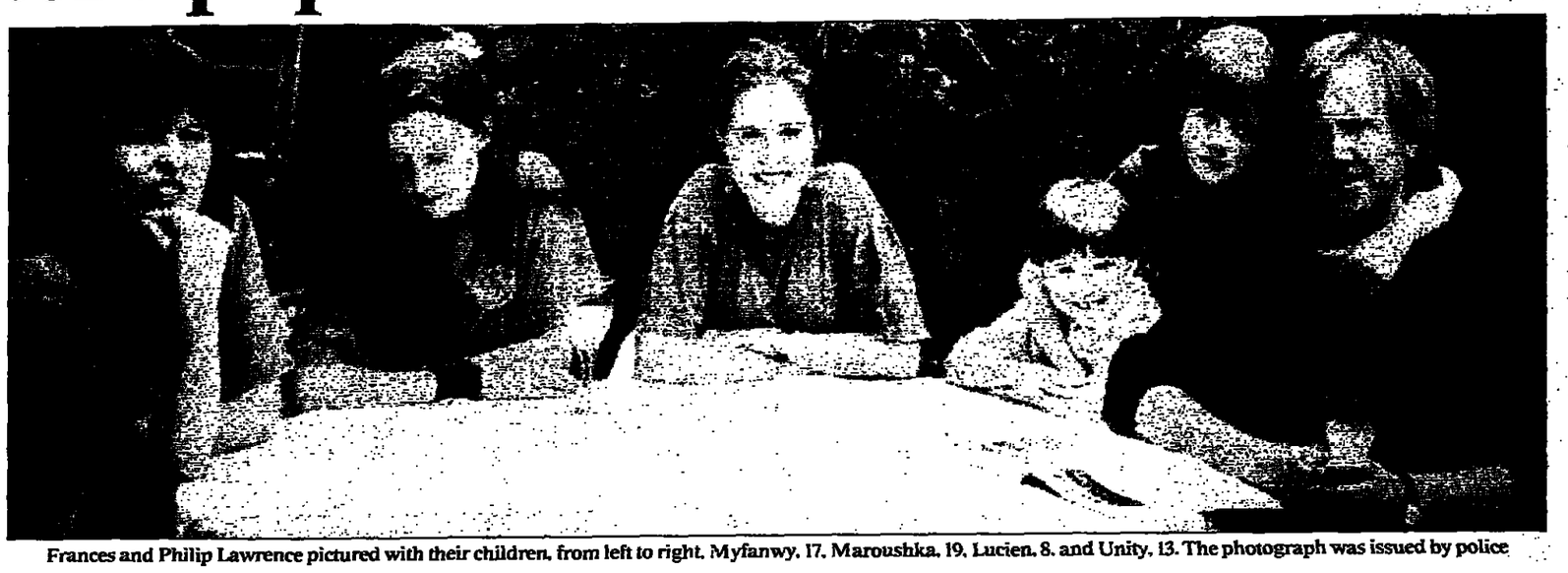
BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE widow of Philip Lawrence wrote to his pupils yesterday, imploring them to share the ideals of their murdered headmaster and "to create a world in which goodness is never again destroyed by evil".

If his students grew up understanding the difference between right and wrong, and believing that love should always overcome hatred, his death would not be in vain, Frances Lawrence said. The typewritten letter was read to the 440 students of St George's Catholic School over the loudspeakers.

In a hushed House of Commons, the Prime Minister led MPs in sending condolences to the stabbed man's family and friends. At the same time the Home Office published tougher punishments it wants imposed on people carrying knives.

Mrs Lawrence said she had been moved by the wishes and thoughts of the hundreds of people who had written to her. In the open letter to her husband's pupils in Maida Vale, northwest London, she thanked them for their messages of support.



Frances and Philip Lawrence pictured with their children, from left to right, Myfanwy, 17, Maroushka, 19, Lucien, 8, and Unity, 13. The photograph was issued by police

"As midnight tolled last Friday, your head teacher, and my husband, lost his fight for life," she wrote. "Your sweet letters to me recognise that, in that moment, the world was deprived of a man of great strength, tenderness and profound understanding.

"You tell me how he gave you pride in your school and, even more importantly, in yourselves. You speak of his friendliness and humour.

"At home, he would share with me and our children his delight in your daily progress and his conviction that each one of you is a fine human being who has the potential to achieve great things. I share that conviction.

"Through your loving letters, I can see how much you care about other people. I can see that you understand the difference between right and wrong and your belief that love should always overcome hatred.

"Your head teacher's — my husband's — death will not be in vain if you grow up with these ideals rooted firmly in your hearts. I have heard so much about you all. I have found great comfort in your letters and comments. I should like to visit you in the New Year.

"Violence is not a knife in the hand. It grows, like a poison tree, inside people who, unlike yourselves, have not learned to value other human beings. Now, I trust you to work as hard as you can, in school and at home, to create a world in which goodness is never again destroyed by evil."

In Parliament, Sir Fergus Montgomery, Tory MP for Altrincham and Sale, told John Major: "The letter written by the small son of Philip Lawrence to Santa Claus was one of the saddest and most moving letters that has ever been written by a child."

The Prime Minister replied: "I am sure the whole House will want to join me in sending our sympathies to the family and friends of Mr Lawrence after that dreadful event.

"The Government is at the moment considering what more can be done. The Home Secretary has been consulting with the Association of Chief of Police Officers about whether harsher and further police powers are necessary in order to deal with the problem of knives and I hope he will be able to announce the outcome and perhaps new proposals in due course."

The Home Office wants people carrying knives to be arrested immediately and face a jail sentence of three months or a fine of £2,400. The maximum penalty for carrying an article with a blade or point is now a fine of £1,000.

Mr Major added: "The Secretary of State for Education and Employment is talking to teachers' representatives about the whole range of issues covering the safety of staff and pupils in our schools."

Detective Superintendent Brian Edwards, who is leading the murder hunt, appealed to the family, relatives and friends of anyone involved in the killing to telephone police on 0171-321 6755. Nearly 200 statements have been taken from teenagers and teachers.

Lessons returned to normal at St George's yesterday as pupils continued to take in floral tributes.

Teachers 'face 'record level' of pupil violence

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

VIOLENCE in schools has reached record levels, according to a teacher union survey published yesterday. It also shows that many attackers escape expulsion.

Less than a week after the death of Philip Lawrence, the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers published a record of more than 50 violent incidents. At least one involved threats to a teacher with a knife. Cases in which members of the union have refused to teach violent and disruptive pupils rose by more than a third this year.

Leaders of the NASUWT raised the issue with Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, the day before Mr Lawrence was stabbed. The union called for more referral units for excluded pupils and an end to the closure of special schools.

Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary, said the evidence suggested it was only a matter of time before another teacher was killed. Some staff were facing "budding young psychopaths". Yet appeals panels introduced in the mid 1980s were increasingly reluctant to confirm expulsions. Mr de Gruchy said the figures were only the tip of a large iceberg. Teachers needed support "in their efforts to teach the majority of children who want to learn without fear of violent disruption".

He said appeals panels were being used by the parents of violent pupils to prevent expulsions, either by playing on the emotions of inexperienced members or using technicalities. "We warned at the time they were set up that the panels would not work, and we have been proved right."

Mrs Shephard has promised new measures to tackle indiscipline, including more use of referral units. But the number of expulsions has continued to rise, topping 10,000 last year.

☐ Two teachers had to intervene to protect a 14-year-old boy after two intruders burst into a classroom. Two white youths who rained kicks and punches on an Asian boy were not pupils at the Bretton Woods Community School in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. After the two were ejected their victim was treated in hospital for bruising.

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Camelot dispute: how a lunch in Holland Park reverberated on the participants two years later

Lottery firm entrepreneur leaves little to chance

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

FOR A man who has made his fortune in the lottery game, Guy Snowden leaves few things to chance in his business life. Influential contacts are courted and charmed. Political friends are sought and sometimes hired.

Mr Snowden, 50, has endless drive and an undeniable track record. He and Victor Markowicz, a mathematician, founded GTech in 1981 after buying a lottery company from their previous employer for $4.3 million. They built the company into the biggest lottery concern in North America, earning gross profits last year of $235 million, plaudits from Wall Street and making Mr Snowden and Mr Markowicz millionaires.

What critics ask, however, is whether this success is the result of hard work or the fruit of a complementary network of contacts in state governments, particularly in departments which decide where lottery contracts go.

Mr Snowden is a friend since childhood of New York's Governor, George Pataki. There is nothing to prove that Mr Snowden has benefited improperly from his links with the governor, but GTech's opponents are wishing *they* had such connections, just as they wish they had won recent business and pricing concessions under Mr Pataki's administration. Envy can breed suspicion.

GTech won part of a New York State lottery contract in the late 1980s. Nine months later it hired the lottery director who had been in office when that contract was awarded. In 1992, the company hired as its lobbyist a former gubernatorial patronage secretary. He quit when the arrangement became public knowledge.

In recent months GTech stopped making political donations, but Mr Snowden seems to have a taste for political smooching and entertaining. In Britain he likes to shoot grouse, and perhaps wager the occasional wad of banknotes on the horses (he used to be an owner).

The preferred picture is of a man who, even when relaxing, has his mind on the pursuit of success. His press aide, Robert Rendine, talks of "a thoughtful man whose success speaks to his vision and business acumen".

At odds with this balmy image sits the conduct of GTech's former chief salesman, J. David Smith, who once sent a festering piece of mutton through the mail to an independent-minded Arizona lottery official. A note attached said simply: "Enjoy." The official later lost his job.

Arizona's attorney-general found that the parcel was sent "without sinister intent". Yet the sniping will not stop. There is the case of Sharon Sharp, a former Illinois lottery director whom a GTech executive referred to as "our gal".

And there was a court case this year in Kentucky when Mr Snowden declined, on behalf of GTech, to rebut fraud charges, claiming his constitutional right to silence. The charges did not stick, but a similar case will reach a New Jersey court next year.

As the Branson allegations hit the fan at the weekend, the Snowden home in Florida was a riot of balloons and party decorations — a seventh birthday for his daughter. Mr Rendine lets his voice adopt an outraged tone when he discloses that the GTech chief executive was forced to miss the little girl's big day. But when, or if, this whole sorry business is sorted out he intends to throw her another party, don't you worry.

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Leading article, page 19



John Jackson, left, Richard Branson and Guy Snowden discussed the National Lottery over lunch

BRANSON'S VERSION

RICHARD BRANSON alleges that Guy Snowden of GTech attempted to bribe him over lunch at Mr Branson's home in Holland Park, west London, in September 1993. Mr Branson called the meeting to sound out GTech on the costs of running a lottery.

Mr Branson says he has "no doubt whatsoever" that Mr Snowden attempted to offer him a bribe to persuade him not to bid for the contract to run the National Lottery. According to Mr Branson, Mr Snowden had asked him: "In what way can I help you, Richard? I'm sure everybody needs something."

John Jackson, who was appointed Mr Branson's lottery bid co-ordinator in May 1993, was also present at the lunch and has confirmed Mr Branson's version of events. Mr Jackson said that Mr Snowden made his offer during the sweet course and that it had precipitated the end of the meeting. "It was very apparent what had been said and Richard closed the meeting soon afterwards."

Mr Branson claims that he told Peter Davis, Director-General of Oflot, the lottery regulator, about the attempted bribe as the two men talked at a meeting in May 1994, shortly after Camelot won the lottery contract. No minutes were taken as the meeting had not formally started. Mr Davis denies this.

GTECH'S VERSION

GUY SNOWDEN of GTech dismissed Richard Branson's plans to run the lottery as unworkable when the two men met for lunch, according to Jem Miller, a spokesman from GTech's public relations company, Lowe Bell. He said Mr Branson invited GTech to join his lottery bid, which he intended to run as a charitable concern, but Mr Snowden told Mr Branson that he did not believe it possible to make money on less than 13 per cent of the total receipts.

Mr Snowden informed Mr Branson that GTech could not join the Branson bid because it was already part of the Camelot consortium. He added that the only way they could be involved was for Mr Branson to join the Camelot consortium.

Mr Miller denied Mr Branson's claim earlier this week that Sir Tim Bell, of Lowe Bell, had telephoned the Virgin chairman after the lunch to say that Mr Snowden had "overstepped his mark" in his comments during the meeting. He said Sir Tim had called the next day to say that Mr Snowden would ask Camelot if Mr Branson could join its bid.

Robert Rendine, GTech's director of public relations, denied Mr Branson's subsequent bribery allegations, describing them as an "evil smear" and an "unjustifiable attack" on Mr Snowden's personal integrity.

THE PANORAMA ACCOUNT

PANORAMA scrutinised the business ethics of GTech, the American shareholder in Camelot. The programme claimed that payments to politicians in America by GTech "raise serious questions about the business practices".

It claimed that lobbyists for the company, which has a 22 per cent stake in Camelot, paid a senator $13,500 to try to kill a Bill in California. The Bill would have required the company to build a new factory. The senator was jailed.

The programme also alleged that $759,000 was paid by GTech to two officials in New Jersey who were related to an aide to the Governor. The company has been the subject of several corruption investigations but has been cleared of malpractice.

Peter Davis, the lottery regulator, was asked repeatedly if he was aware of the allegations when he assessed GTech's suitability to be involved in the lottery. He said that the company and its dealings had been analysed with the help of a range of experts. But he said that the investigations were confidential and he could not discuss them. The programme disclosed that the company's start-up costs, which were due to be written off over five years, were written off over one. A £5 million deposit was made to a lottery fund earlier than was required.

Profits after 20 weeks were declared at £6.3 million. They would have been £26 million if accountancy changes had not been implemented. When the lottery began, Mr Davis predicted that Camelot would operate at a loss in its early years.

Panorama also accused Camelot of using its monopoly powers to beat off competition from rival scratchcards.

'Dull' watchdog bans family from gambling

BY JOANNA BALE

BY HIS own admission, Peter Davis is a boring, middle-aged man who dislikes the risk of gambling. He trained as an accountant, climbed the corporate ladder in insurance and banking, and is so keen to avoid question marks over his Oflot chairmanship that he has forbidden his wife and sons to play the Lottery.

Vanessa Davis is said not to mind this ban, but their sons Timothy, 18, and Alexander, 20, a modern languages student at his father's *alma mater*, Lincoln College, Oxford, are reportedly rather disappointed by it.

Once asked what he would do with a multimillion-pound win if he had chosen to play, Mr Davis confessed nothing more than a desire to buy fishing rights in Ireland and Scotland so that he could pursue his love of fly fishing. He would then be "frightfully boring" and enjoy the process of investing the rest.

Mr Davis, 54, once commanded a much higher private sector salary than his present £80,000. Home is a large, detached Edwardian house in one of the most prestigious areas of Wimbledon, southwest London, in a street where properties fetch more than £1 million. The substantial back garden has a tennis court. A bronze H-registration Mercedes estate car and a battered grey Sierra were the only vehicles in the drive yesterday.

One neighbour said: "They are an ordinary, suburban couple really. They are nice people and very respectable. We all believe Mr Davis when he says he took those free flights to save taxpayers' money. That's typical of him. He doesn't go in for excess and enjoys looking after money, not spending it. He's an accountant, after all."

At the nearby Hurlingham Club, where Mr Davis is a member, one member said: "He has been chairman of one of our committees in the past, which means he is a stickler for tradition. If you are in any way radical, you never get anywhere on our committees." Another of Mr Davis's sporting interests is watching football. He used to play for his school team at Winchester and now supports Wimbledon and Arsenal.

Reg Davis, a senior Wimbledon official, said: "Mrs Davis used to come and buy the tickets for Mr Davis and their two sons. They didn't go for private boxes, just ordinary seats.

"They are a delightful family, but since Mr Davis became involved in the lottery he has not been here. I think he didn't want to compromise his position because clubs have their own lotteries."

Mr Davis read law at university, and considered following his father Stanley to the Bar. Like his father, however, who progressed to a clothing business in Savile Row, he decided on an early career change and became an accountant. He was general audit partner at Price Waterhouse at 32, then executive deputy chairman of the carpet manufacturers Harris Queensway, deputy chairman of the insurance company Sturge Holdings, and deputy chairman of Abbey National.

When appointed to Oflot, he severed his links with Abbey National to prevent any conflict of interest. He said: "I am committed to ensuring it is run with imagination, efficiency and complete integrity."



Davis: began his career as an accountant

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Millionaire held captive as robbers steal jewels

BY ADRIAN LEE

A MASKED gang escaped with cash and jewellery after holding one of Britain's richest men and his family captive at their home. Eddie Healey, the multimillionaire developer of the Meadowhall shopping centre in Sheffield, was bound, gagged and handcuffed by four men.

The robbers evaded elaborate security measures at Westella Hall, the Healey family's home at Kirkella, Hull. Mr Healey, 57, his wife Carol, 50, and their sons, James, 20, and Mark, 23, were overpowered by the gang on Monday evening.

The men, wearing black hats, stocking masks, jumpers and jeans, were in the house for about half an hour before they left with what police said was a substantial amount of cash and jewellery. The alarm was raised when a friend called at the house.

None of the family needed hospital treatment, although one of Mr Healey's sons suffered slight facial injuries.



Healey: his family was bound and gagged

Police said the family was threatened before one son was assaulted and they were all handcuffed.

Detective Inspector Mick Hobson, of Hessle CID, said: "The family is bearing up well, but they were shocked and disturbed that this could happen in their own home."

Detectives will investigate how the gang, who are believed to have had a getaway car waiting on the nearby A164, broke into the house, defeating its sophisticated security system. Last night 20 officers were involved in the search.

Guards at the electronic gates of Westella Hall, which has its own gatehouse, a sweeping driveway and is set in a wealthy suburb of Hull, refused to comment. Mr Healey requested that no details about the robbery or his family should be released.

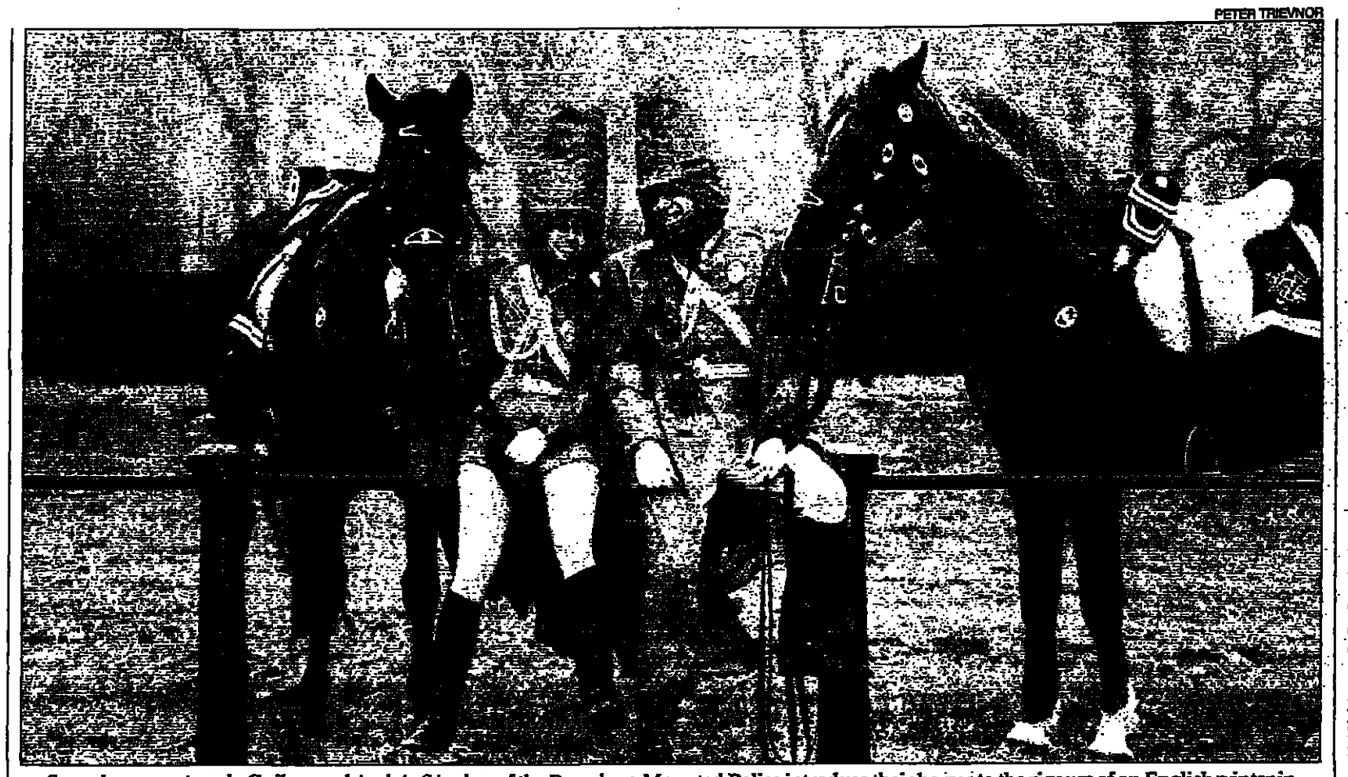
Mr Healey and his brother Malcolm have a combined fortune estimated at £300 million. Earlier this year they were ranked thirty-fifth in the annual list published by *The Sunday Times* of Britain's 500 richest people.

Eddie Healey, through his company Stadium City, still holds a stake in Meadowhall, whose value has been put at £500 million.

The brothers made their fortunes when they sold their business, Hygena Kitchens, to MFI in 1980.

Despite trying to keep a low profile, Eddie Healey has a reputation for throwing flamboyant and costly family parties. The raid happened two days after he celebrated his wife's fiftieth birthday at Carlton Towers near Goole, the home of the Duke of Norfolk, by hiring the pop group Eternal and the comedian Freddie Starr.

PETER TRIEVNOR



Snow jumpers: Angela Guilem and Andrés Sánchez of the Barcelona Mounted Police introduce their horses to the rigours of an English winter in Hyde Park, London, yesterday. The Spanish team is making its debut at the International Show Jumping Championships at Olympia tomorrow

Newcastle woos opera company

NEWCASTLE is attempting to lure the D'Oyly Carte opera company from Birmingham with the promise of its own theatre and annual funds of £250,000 (Dalya Alberge writes).

Karl Watkin, a businessman, has acquired the Tyne Theatre and Opera House in Westgate Road for £1 million with the intention that the D'Oyly Carte should become the resident company. The theatre, a 134-year-old listed building which was closed for 11 months after a fire on Christmas Day 1985, needs extensive renovation. Mr Watkin sees its purchase as a chance to renovate a rundown area of the city.

Ray Brown, general manager of D'Oyly Carte, said: "This is an extremely exciting opportunity." The matter will go to the board this week. The move would also depend on Birmingham's reaction.

Beware Russians aiming to relieve you of blood pressure and wallet

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE sad saga of Tom de Waal, the *Times* correspondent all but laid out in the Russian snow by a mickey finn, was told in all its heartrending detail in this newspaper on Monday. Since then, a surprising number of patients have told me that they have husbands, or sons, who regularly travel to Russia on business and that they have cut out the report so that their loved ones might be warned of the hazards of accepting drinks from strangers in far-off bars, whether in Kursk, Gorky or, one suspects, even in Moscow.

Mr de Waal had whiled away a lonely evening in Kursk with two young, friendly, smart and cheerful locals. As they chatted together the vodka flowed. A brisk constitutional failed to revive Mr de Waal's flagging spirit or alleviate his feelings of faintness and disorientation. His composure was not helped by discovering, just before his train was due to leave for Moscow, that his wallet had been stolen.

He was left by his erstwhile companions to die in the snow as his heart rate started to fall to an omniously low rate. Rescued, he was sent back to Moscow where clonidine poisoning was diagnosed.

Clonidine is becoming to the Russian criminal classes what chloral hydrate was to the American gangster, or frustrated lover, in the prohibition years. Readers of old detective novels will remember that chloral hydrate was the ingredient which, when added to alcohol, could guarantee a miscreant his prey's wallet or virginity. Chloral hydrate is still used for a sleeping draught, but it has a disgusting taste and must have been well disguised by the rest of the cocktail before an unsuspecting victim would drink it.

Clonidine is better known as a treatment for high blood pressure than as a narcotic. However, even if the Russian crooks increasingly use it to enfeeble their subjects, Western doctors are abandoning it for its primary purpose. Other, more effective drugs without such serious side-effects are now available to treat hypertension. Clonidine can cause a dry mouth, a very slow pulse rate — as Mr de Waal discovered — sedation in the short term and insomnia if taken for any length of time.

Mr de Waal is unlikely to have discovered as he lay in the snow that it causes impotence, but he may have noticed that it can trigger depression. As a knockout drop it has the advantage that it is practically tasteless when mixed with vodka and enhances the disinhibitory effect of alcohol as well as adding its own mind-bending properties.

The Russian criminal obviously knows its properties: clinics catering for foreign visitors in Moscow are now treating several cases of clonidine poisoning a month.

Porsche in fatal collision 'was doing 100mph'

THREE people were killed in a crash on a Porsche promotion day at which cars were driven at up to 120mph on country lanes, an inquest was told yesterday.

Derek Redfern, a retired businessman, was the last customer taken on a high-speed test drive. Gavin Shaw, the salesman, was driving when the pair left from a country hotel. Seconds later, the £56,000 Porsche Carerra 911 exploded in flames when it crashed into a Renault 5 driven by Karen Dalley, the hotel's assistant manageress.

Mr Redfern, 57, Mr Shaw, 30, and Miss Dalley, 22, died instantly in the crash at Llyswen, in Powys, on June 11. They were identified by dental records.

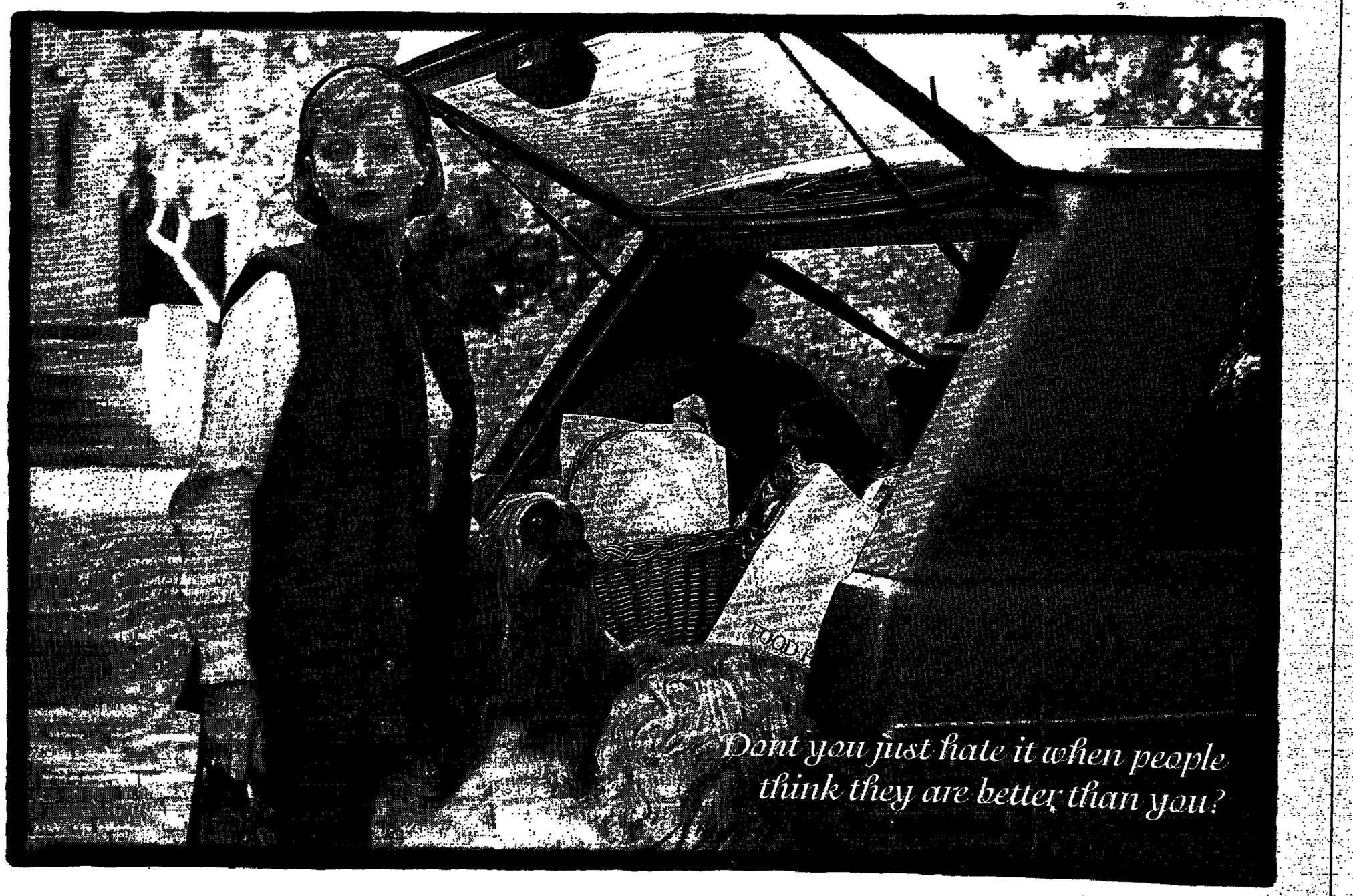
The trip was a surprise for Mr Redfern's son Oliver. Mr Redfern travelled from his home at Kingsbridge, Devon, to visit his son, a trainee architect, who was studying at Cardiff University.

Oliver Redfern, 20, told the inquest at Brecon that on his drive in a Porsche 968 Cabriolet the car broke legal speed limits. "At one stage we started to pull out when another Porsche shot past and, later, on a straight road, we reached 120mph. I must admit I was enjoying it."

The open day was arranged by Porsche dealers Merlin Cambria, of Cardiff. Kevin Baddeley, the sales manager, said nine cars were being demonstrated and the sales team was told to make sure customers "weren't carried away" by the high-performance cars. "I told them to keep their speeds down and observe the legal limit."

PC Mark Worth, the accident investigator, said the Porsche lost control on a left-hand bend at a speed of at least 100mph on a stretch of road which had double white lines. He said the tread of one tyre was worn at the edge which showed it had been habitually driven hard.

The inquest continues.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Probation for nurse over son's insulin

A nurse who gave her ten-year-old son, in pain from a severe birth injury, a potentially fatal dose of insulin was placed on probation for three years yesterday after admitting two charges of assault.

Lord Johnston told the woman, 41, from Fife, at the High Court in Glasgow that a condition would be psychiatric treatment. The boy, who suffers epilepsy, migraine, and flies into rages, suffered no after-effects from the insulin. Two charges of murder were dropped.

School to appeal

Pupils and parents at Hackney Downs School, east London, which has been recommended for closure, failed to win a reprieve in the High Court. But they were given leave to take the case to the Court of Appeal before Friday — the last day of term and the effective closure date.

Soldiers out

Two privates in the Royal Logistic Corps were dismissed from the Army yesterday after cannabis was found in their kit in Bosnia. Jason Dobbs, 21, was also sentenced to three months in custody by a court martial, and Ricky Hughes, 23, to 28 days. Both were based at Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Rector's death

A rector charged with indecently assaulting girls under 16 has been found dead in his car at a beauty spot near Denbigh, Clwyd. A hosepipe led to the exhaust. The Rev John Roberts, 63, rector of Llanddulas and Llysfaen, was found a day after he was reported missing.

WPC attacked

A policewoman was hit in the face with a wrench as she and a colleague tried to question two men acting suspiciously in the car park of an hotel at Sedgefield, Co Durham. WPC Helen Bulloch, 29, was in hospital with a fractured cheekbone and cuts.

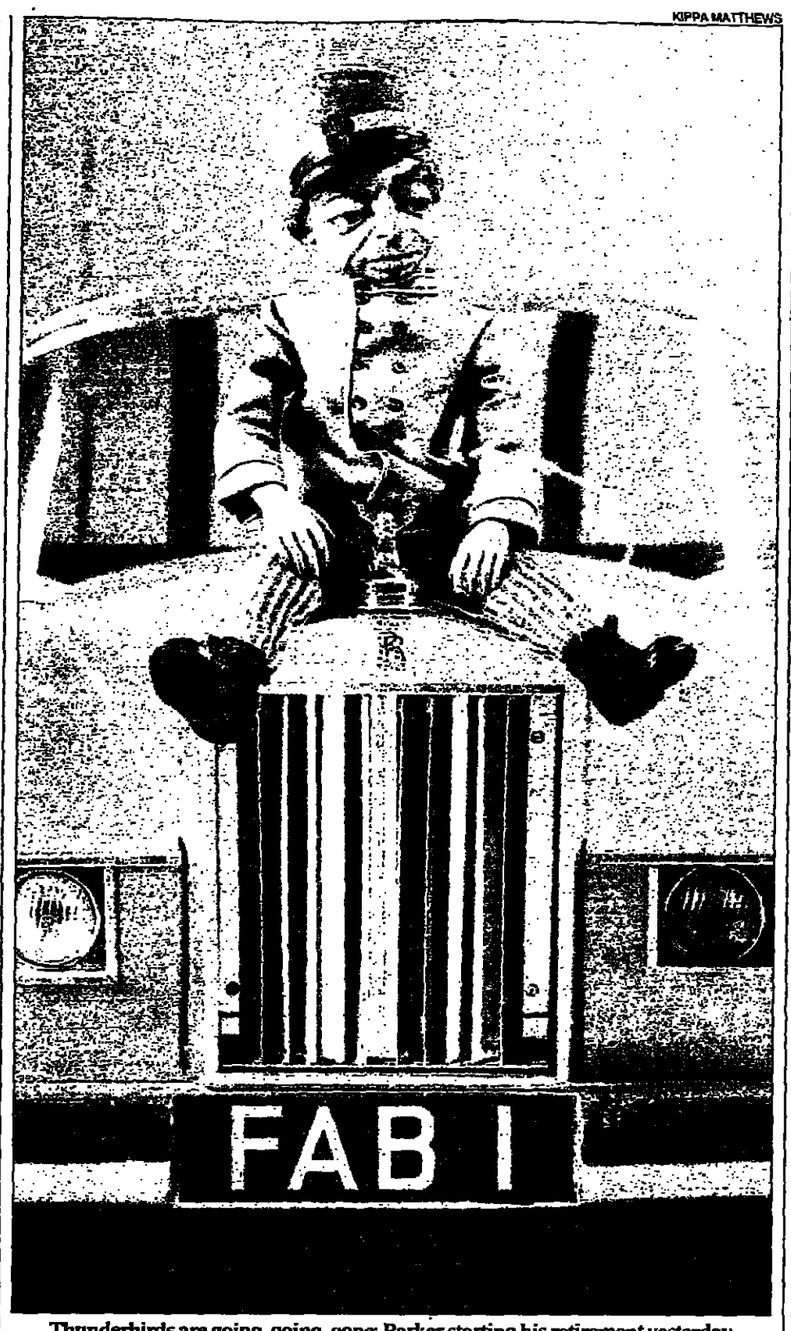
£100,500 Turner

An unknown Turner landscape, identified by the artist's fingerprint, sold for £100,500 at Phillips in London. The fingerprint on *Landscape with Rainbow*, bought at a car boot sale in Canada, matched that on a Turner work at the Tate Gallery.

Judge's present

A judge granted a request by a homeless man to be allowed to stay in Norwich prison for Christmas. Mark Keepe, 20, is accused of escaping from lawful custody.

KIPPA MATTHEWS



Thunderbirds are going, going, gone: Parker starting his retirement yesterday

This is goodbye, M'lady. By the way, I'm keeping the car

BY A STAFF REPORTER

IT WAS the parting of the ways yesterday for Lady Penelope and the chauffeur who steered her through countless adventures in *Thunderbirds*.

As international collectors bid for puppets from the television series at a London auction, the upper-crust adventuress found herself off to a new life in America, while Parker, her unflappable employee, is staying in Britain.

In a fitting end to the relationship, the Cockney driver gets to stay with the shocking-pink Rolls-Royce in which he rescued her so often. An anonymous British collector paid £23,000 for the 9ft model car — number plate FAB 1 — and £19,550 for an original puppet of Parker.

Both prices left International Rescue's cool superagent looking a little outclassed. An American collector was able to buy her for £13,800, including a white linen dress with lilac blouse and trademark large hat.

A spokeswoman for Phillips salesroom said: "Lady Penelope has a stiff upper lip and will make a new life and new friends in America — even if she has lost her car and butler."

The puppets and car were used to make the cult 1960s show, which ran to 32 one-hour episodes and two full-length films. They had since been owned by separate collectors, while the show has been appealing afresh to a new generation of young.

Also at the auction, a British collector who bought the puppet of the indestructable Captain Scarlet last September was able to reunite him with his Angel Interceptor craft for £9,975.

Perhaps unexpectedly, an American paid £5,175 for a vicar puppet from the series *Secret Service*, which was modelled on Stanley Unwin.

Charter basis for Labour legislation

Ramblers demand right to roam the countryside

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

WALKERS are heading for confrontation with farmers and landowners after setting out their demands for a right-to-roam charter, covering all woods, riversides and uncultivated land.

A draft Access to the Countryside Bill, unveiled today by Kate Ashbrook, chairman of the 108,000-member Ramblers' Association, would in principle make it a criminal offence for landowners to stop the public entering such areas. Landowners would be able to apply to local authorities for temporary bans on access for a variety of reasons, including keeping walkers off moorland during grouse and pheasant shoots and away from sheep flocks during lambing.

Ms Ashbrook said: "The range of restrictions built into the proposed Bill shows that we are taking a common-sense and responsible approach and gives the lie to those who say we are making unreasonable demands. The gentlemen of England fight dirty. They know that we have never claimed an unrestricted right of access everywhere, but this does not stop them pretending otherwise if it suits their commercial interests."

The Country Landowners' Association, whose 50,000 members own half of England and Wales, said a statutory right to roam, however legally qualified, would be a recipe for conflict. Alan Woods, the association's environmental adviser, said: "We have always taken the view that voluntary agreements between ramblers and landowners are the right way forward. Statutory imposition will only create resentment."

Paddy Tipping, the Labour MP for Sherwood, who is also president of the ramblers' Nottinghamshire branch, plans to table the charter as a Ten Minute Rule Bill in January. This has no chance of becoming law but, if opposed, could be voted on and provide a test of parliamentary opinion. "Rambling is not a political issue, but a popular one deserving the backing of all sides of the House," he said.

It is expected that the ramblers' charter will form the basis for legislation which the Labour Party has promised to bring forward if it wins the next general election.

The charter says the public should be able to walk over all open country, which is defined as "any area which consists wholly or predominantly of mountain, moor, heath, down, cliff or foreshore (including any bank, barrier, dune, beach, flat or other land adjacent to the foreshore)".

In what is likely to prove the most controversial section, it also says walkers should have access to "any woodlands" and to a strip of land beside all rivers and canals.

Landowners would be able to apply to local authorities to keep the public out under "temporary prohibition orders". Moorland owners, for example, could apply to close their estates for a maximum of 12 days in any calendar year "to enable organised shooting to take place".

Martin Gillibrand, secretary of the Moorland Owners' Association, said: "Such a charter would be impossible to enforce. Many estates have shoots on at least 30 days in the year. How would we let walkers know which days were closed?"

The National Farmers' Union said it was worried that a right to roam would exacerbate the growing problem of rural crime and vandalism. Sue Viner, the NFU's countryside adviser, said: "Our preference has always been for managed access to farmland."

☐ Restaurants, pubs and even village souvenir shops will be eligible for their own roadside tourist signs under new rules designed to boost tourism (Stephen Farrell writes).

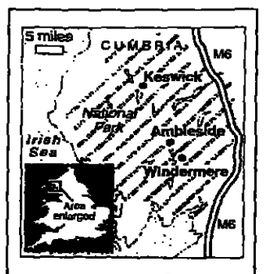
Until now the brown and white signs have been reserved for leading tourist attractions, such as leisure parks, museums and stately homes. John Watts, the Roads Minister, said yesterday that from January 5 discretion for signing would be passed to local authorities and a maximum of six signs could be displayed together. Businesses would pay for their signs.

The move has been greeted with concern by rural groups. Neil Sinden, of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "We are worried that you will see a multitude of unsightly, unnecessary traffic signs. The system we had contained very useful and valuable controls which up until now safeguarded the countryside."

A spokesman for the AA said: "Road safety has to be the priority. It is far more important for people to be informed about what is happening on the road ahead of them than to know where the local restaurant is."



Ashbrook: said demands were reasonable



Tourist industry sees off car curbs

PROTESTS from the local tourist industry have halted proposals to restrict traffic over most Lake District passes to access only and to cut speed limits on all minor roads in the national park.

The ideas came from the Lake District Traffic Management Initiative, set up by tourism and local authority officials to devise solutions to the area's traffic problems. But people reliant on the tourist trade protested during public consultations that both measures would cut passing trade. As a result, a more flexible, local approach to the traffic overload is being recommended.

Members of the planning policy committee of the Lake District Special Planning Board were divided at a meeting yesterday over whether more car parks should be encouraged. One member, Peter Phizacklea, said: "At public meetings the vast majority said we should have more car parks, but we can never provide enough for all who want to come here unless you tarmac the whole of the Lake District. If you provide the maximum, you'll have all sorts of problems."

Some members, however, thought that a few discreetly placed car parks could help to relieve traffic pressures and stop people parking illegally. The revised strategy will now go to further public consultation before final decisions are made in two months' time.

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Why both sides are stuck with the Question Time charade

Tony Blair's emergence as a parliamentary reformer, proposing to transform Prime Minister's Questions, is *not quite what it seems*. He is not, in reality, a lonely radical challenging the inbuilt conservatism of the Tory Government over all things constitutional, the next winner of a Charter 88 award. His comments reflect, first, a consensus, accepted by both John Major and Paddy Ashdown, about the need to change the present twice-weekly, 15-minute, PM's Questions, and, second, the calculations of a party leader about which type of reform would best suit Labour.

Mr Blair is genuine in his complaints about the current raucous and personally abusive exchanges, with its soundbites devised for the evening news bulletins. No event which makes stars of MPs like the plonking David Evans is good for Parliament or for politics. That distaste is shared by Mr Major and Mr Ashdown. The Prime Minister first pressed the need for reform last year, which led to a review and proposals for change from the cross-party Procedure Committee five months ago. And Mr Ashdown

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

has been one of the most consistent advocates of reform, including the idea of a once-a-week 30-minute session which would be more ordered than at present with greater notice of detailed questions.

The committee produced a carefully balanced compromise with a suggested experiment on Thursdays when backbench MPs would not be allowed to table the present "open" questions about the Prime Minister's day followed by a detailed supplementary on anything they wish. Instead, backbenchers, chosen as now by ballot, would have to give 27 hours notice of a *detailed, substantive question*. This is intended to allow MPs to raise matters of topical interest but also to give the Prime Minister longer to prepare a full answer. The main stumbling block is over the position of the Leader of the Opposition since PM's Questions is one of the few occasions when he or she is assured of the limelight to press the Prime Minister. So the committee suggested that the Leader of the Opposition should be allowed to intervene on any question and to table a specific question at noon on the relevant day.

Some of Mr Blair's key advisers were not keen on this idea, arguing that they would lose a crucial advantage by giving any notice, even of three hours. In a letter to the committee in May, Mr Blair argued that in any reforms "provision would have to be made for the Leader of the Opposition to ask a topical question of his choice early on in Question Time, *as at present*". Labour's coolness to the committee's report largely explains why little has been heard of it since July.

Mr Blair's latest proposals for reform are not new but revive the suggestion he made in May for a 30-minute session. This was rejected by the committee because it might be less flexible than now. Mr Blair accepts that some questions would have to be notified in advance to encourage more informative replies. But, crucially, he still believes the opposition leader should retain the ability to ask impromptu searching questions on *the topics of the day. But no Prime* Minister, of whatever party, is likely to agree to have a mixture of questions in advance from backbenchers and a surprise open one from the Leader of the Opposition.

Little is therefore likely to happen before the next general election. Calculations of party advantage are likely to prevent any bold initiative to break this deadlock. Both sides are likely to stick with the status quo. Mr Major and Mr Blair will carry on playing the old game every Tuesday and Thursday with cynical resignation, even though they both despise what happens and recognise the damage it is doing to Parliament.

PETER RIDDELL

Gummer launches assault on Britain's rubbish mountain

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Government announced a strategy yesterday intended to safeguard the environment by cutting the huge quantities *of rubbish dumped at landfill* sites.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, said that every year Britain generated 430 million tonnes of rubbish — enough to fill Windermere every nine months. "A typical household produces around 700kg of waste a year. Seventy-seven per cent of that could be recycled or composted. We cannot entirely eliminate waste production, but we can reduce the impact that our waste has on our environment."

The strategy, drafted after consultation with industry, waste companies and recycling organisations, calls for the levels of household and industrial waste going to landfills to be cut by 60 per cent by 2005. It also calls for 40 per cent of household and municipal rubbish to be recovered, recycled and re-used by the same date.

Ray Palin, director of the Energy from Waste Association, which promotes the incineration of rubbish, said he was delighted that a recovery target had been set.

Incineration, with each *plant able to produce electricity* for up to 30,000 houses as a by-product, is backed by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and the Government despite opposition from some environmental groups that claim the technology increases toxic pollution.

Mr Palin said the evidence from Europe was that incineration alongside well-run recycling schemes could bring about massive waste reduction. In France two fifths of household waste is incinerated and about a third is in Germany. This compares with less than a tenth in Britain.

There have been fears that tougher European air pollution laws would make it too expensive for companies and councils to invest in new energy producing incinerators. But the Department of Trade and Industry recently included waste-into-energy incineration in a scheme that provides subsidies using money from electricity customers.

Mr Palin said a new incinerator at Birmingham was about to begin operating and another was under construction in Cleveland. Older incinerators, which it was feared would be forced into retirement, are being upgraded with local authority and company money. These include plants at Edmonton, Coventry and Sheffield.

"We should soon have seven plants operating to the highest standards," Mr Palin said. The association estimates that of the 20 million tonnes of household rubbish produced annually 10 to 15 incinerators could dispose of nearly a third.

Mr Gummer, who described the waste reduction targets as ambitious, expects the new landfill tax announced in the budget to encourage industry and local authorities to back more imaginative recycling schemes by increasing the costs of landfill disposal.

But Chris Murphy, assistant chief executive of the independent Institute of Wastes Management in Northampton, said that too much faith might be being put in the landfill tax. Some recyling companies felt that other measures were needed at the recyling rather than the disposal end of the waste chain. These include zero national insurance for recycling firms and fiscal incentives favouring products made from recycled rather than virgin material.

Mr Murphy said that stable markets for recycled goods were vital to the success of the Government's strategy. A few years ago waste paper was virtually worthless but now commanded more than £100 a tonne after a steep rise in pulp prices to meet paper needs in the Far East. "If you own a recycling company now you are making money . . . but who knows in a few years?"



Labour rebels 'expelled'

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

REBEL Labour members of Walsall council have formed a breakaway group, prompting the party to declare that all 15 have brought about their own expulsion.

Dave Church, the left-wing leader of the rebels, had already been suspended after an investigation by Labour's national executive found that he and four colleagues were members of another group described as "a party within a party".

The formation of the latest *rebel group means that the* West Midlands council is hung and there is no chance of implementing its decentralisation policy, under which a network of district offices was planned. The split coincides with a government announcement of £14.6 million funding *for regeneration of the bor*ough over the next seven years.

The rebels decided to break with the national party after a stormy three-hour meeting of the council on Monday. Mr Church, with the help of five Liberal Democrats, survived an attempt by the 19 moderate Labour councillors to seize the leadership. The rebel 15 then announced the formation of a new party to be known as "the Labour Group". The party responded by saying the rebels had expelled themselves and would not be allowed to rejoin the party for at least five years.

A Labour spokesman said: "The rules are crystal clear. They have just excluded themselves from Labour Party membership."

Mr Church said last night: "The whole thing is now in chaos because these people 120 miles away are trying to run Walsall council. It is bound to fail but it is the people of Walsall and the local politicians here who will have to pay the price. This fiasco is not going to do the Labour Party any good at the next local elections."

Redwood details 'dangers' of a single currency

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SINGLE currency would damage the British economy and strike a grievous blow to centuries of parliamentary democracy, John Redwood said yesterday.

In a 42-page pamphlet primarily aimed at business but also taking in the wider concerns of the public, the former Cabinet minister reviews the case for and against monetary union and concludes that it would be a political and economic disaster.

"For the nation as a whole, there are huge constitutional issues," he says. "Do we wish to remain a nation or not? We are united with one monarch, one Parliament, one army and one currency. Take away the pound, and with it many of the powers of Parliament, and you are dissolving the nation.

"In a world of a single currency, there would be no point writing to your MP to complain of unemployment, inflation, house prices or mortgage rates. All these thing would be determined or influenced by the Central Bank, not by ourselves . . .

"I believe it is a small minority of the British people who want to wind up Britain and create a new European nation with a single European government. Similarly, it is a small minority who want us to turn our backs on the Common Market and deny we have interests in Europe.

"The British Government should speak up for our idea of co-operating nation states, who preserve the right to independent action in crucial areas of policy . . . If we give voice to it with verve and distinction, we could save Europe from the economic and constitutional turmoil that a single currency would cause."

He continues: "Far from creating harmony and peace in Europe, the single currency plan would reawaken tensions and disagreements as well as damaging our prosperity. It is an experiment we cannot afford . . . It is a fundamental constitutional issue. Abolishing the pound would be a mistake."

Mr Redwood concedes that for supporters of a European superstate, a single currency makes sense. He also accepts that a single currency would cut transaction costs for firms dealing in European currencies — a minority — and, in theory, would keep inflation low. But he sets out several main reasons for rejecting the idea.

It would, he says, be a major step along the road to a European superstate; it would push up taxation as affluent parts of the country were required to subsidise poorer parts of the Mediterranean states; it would push up prices as shopkeepers cashed in on the changeover from the pound to the new currency; it would be expensive, partly because of the cost of producing new notes and coins; the transition phase would invite currency speculation; it would involve the handover of £25 billion of foreign exchange reserves to a European Central Bank; it would mean loss of national control over taxation, public spending and borrowing.

IN PARLIAMENT

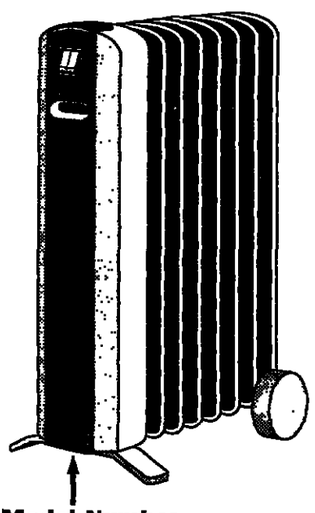
YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to social security ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by a statement on the Bosnia peace implementation force and debates on the Health Service Commissioners (Amendment) Bill, second reading, and the Rating (Caravans and Boats) Bill, second reading. In the Lords: debates on next year's European intergovernmental conference; relations between Europe and the United States.
TODAY in the Commons: backbench debates on the preparation, drafting and publication of government Bills; working time and family life; reception of BBC radio Gloucestershire; help for haemophiliacs with hepatitis C; the future of the Army Technical Agency Unit in Malvern. This afternoon education and employment questions will be followed by the Armed Forces Bill, second reading. In the Lords: debates on regulation and operation of privatised utilities; the Learmont review of prison security; the Western European Time Bill, committee stage.

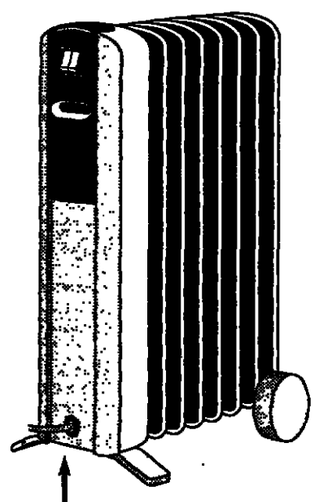
Depressed areas get £2.5bn aid

DEPRESSED inner cities and rural areas will receive £2.5 billion over the next seven years from the latest batch of awards for regeneration schemes (Ian Murray writes).

The Government will provide £1 billion, with the rest promised by the private sector. It will help to safeguard 500,000 jobs, support 80,000 new businesses, provide 170,000 homes and support more than 20,000 community groups. The 172 awards announced yesterday, by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, include those for schemes tackling drug abuse, helping refugees and finding work for ex-offenders.

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'Duped' Gingrich heroine fights to save her career

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

"I AM one of the luckiest people in the world," Enid Greene Waldholtz, a newly elected Utah congresswoman, told *The Times* in an interview last January. She was 36, just married and pregnant, but above all she was one of the stormtroopers of Newt Gingrich's "Republican Revolution" who were going to clean up Washington and permamently transform America. "I am a part of something historic," she said.

On Monday, America watched transfixed as Mrs Waldholtz, tears streaming down her face, fought to salvage her ruined political career. In a five-hour televised press conference, the woman once dubbed the "Mormon Margaret Thatcher" explained why she was one of the world's unluckiest women.

Her $1.8 million (£1.2 million) campaign, last year's most expensive, had been financed fraudulently, she admitted, but it was all her husband Joseph's doing. The 21-stone "teddy bear" she had trusted absolutely had turned out to be a consummate con man. He had duped her father out of $4 million, embezzled tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions, filed false campaign finance reports and had engaged in what she delicately termed "questionable lifestyle choices".

"Everything I had known about Joseph Waluholtz, who I had loved and trusted, was a lie," the weeping congresswoman said. She apologised to her election opponents and Salt Lake City's voters, but refused to resign. "There is no way I can return an election. I wish there were."

The couple met through politics in 1991 and were married before 700 guests in 1993. Joseph, five years her junior, passed himself off as extremely wealthy and promised her $5 million as a wedding gift. Last year Mrs Waldholtz campaigned on a platform of family values, fiscal rectitude and political reform, and defeated the Democratic incumbent thanks to a huge last-minute advertising blitz financed, she told reporters, by personal funds.



Waldholtz: tearful TV press conference

In Washington, the couple rented Henry Kissinger's old Georgetown home and she quickly became a Gingrich favourite. She pointedly refused to accept her full salary or the extravagent congressional pension scheme and carried the Speaker's *Contract With America* in her handbag like a bible. In August she had a daughter, Elizabeth, becoming only the second congresswoman to give birth while in office.

Almost immediately her gilded life began to unravel. Federal authorities launched an investigation into her campaign's funding. In November she drove her husband to Washington's National airport, supposedly to meet the trustees of his alleged family trust fund, but he vanished, leaving her without even the car keys. A week later he turned himself in and offered to incriminate his wife in return for a lesser sentence. Mrs Waldholtz, besieged in her home by reporters, sued for divorce.

The Salt Lake City press conference was her first public appearance in a month.

At the press conference, Mrs Waldholtz did not rule out seeking re-election next year, but as one *Washington Post* commentator put it yesterday: "Seeking public office on the ground that you have been totally duped is not ordinarily the best way."



A three-storey Tudor-style home falls into a sinkhole in the Sea Cliff region of San Francisco after torrential rain ruptured a 100-year-old sewer pipe. The hole, which was 200ft wide and 60ft deep, also engulfed a tree and a lorry, and several other houses were declared unsafe

San Francisco picks former shoeshine boy for Mayor

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

BARRING an upset, San Francisco was choosing as its first black Mayor yesterday a former Texas shoeshine boy who became one of America's most influential black politicians without ever holding national office.

As Democratic Speaker of the Californian assembly, the mercurial Willie Brown was regarded as the state's power-broker. On the eve of the mayoral run-off he enjoyed a lead of more than 20 points over Frank Jordan, the incumbent, whose campaign stalled when he posed nude in a shower with two disc jockeys.

Mr Brown defeated Mr Jordan in last month's primary. He was promptly endorsed for the run-off by the city's police officers, its environmentalists and, crucially, its homosexuals.

The election was all but won when Roberta Achtenberg, until last year the highest-ranking openly gay member of the Clinton Administration, urged her supporters to back the Brown campaign after she came third in the primary on November 7. The gay vote accounts for 17 per cent of the turnout in mayoral elections.

In a final month of gruelling campaigning, Mr Jordan has tried to brand his opponent as untrustworthy, reminding voters of donations Mr Brown accepted from special interest groups to fund his re-elections to the state assembly, where he represented San Francisco for 31 years.

Records show that the flamboyant Mr Brown, who is also known for his fast cars and costly Italian suits, has accepted $255,000 (£170,000) in his career from the tobacco industry — more than any other American politician.

But tolerant San Francisco appears to have forgiven him. It has ridiculed Mr Jordan's bid to enliven his pallid image by accepting a challenge from two Los Angeles radio personalities to join them in a televised shower.

Whitewater inquiry finds 'smoking gun'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS investigating Whitewater found the focus that has eluded them for months yesterday after a "smoking gun" emerged in files once belonging to Hillary Clinton that have been kept secret from the Senate since the start of its inquiry.

The files, relating to work by Mrs Clinton for a savings and loan association owned by the Clintons' partner in the failed Whitewater land venture, were removed from her Arkansas law firm during the 1992 presidential election. They were later stored in a Washington basement by Webster Hubbell, the former associate attorney-general who has since been convicted of fraud and tax evasion. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, chairman of the Senate panel, said yesterday that the previously unreported files were directly connected to criminal referrals involving Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association, and included information on its representation by Mrs Clinton.

Mr D'Amato said Madison was "a criminal enterprise" and the documents showed that the Rose Law Firm, in which both Mr Hubbell and Mrs Clinton were partners, was "deeply involved" in its representation.

"People would not have wanted that to come out," he said.

Murderer opts for firing squad

BY GILES WHITTELL

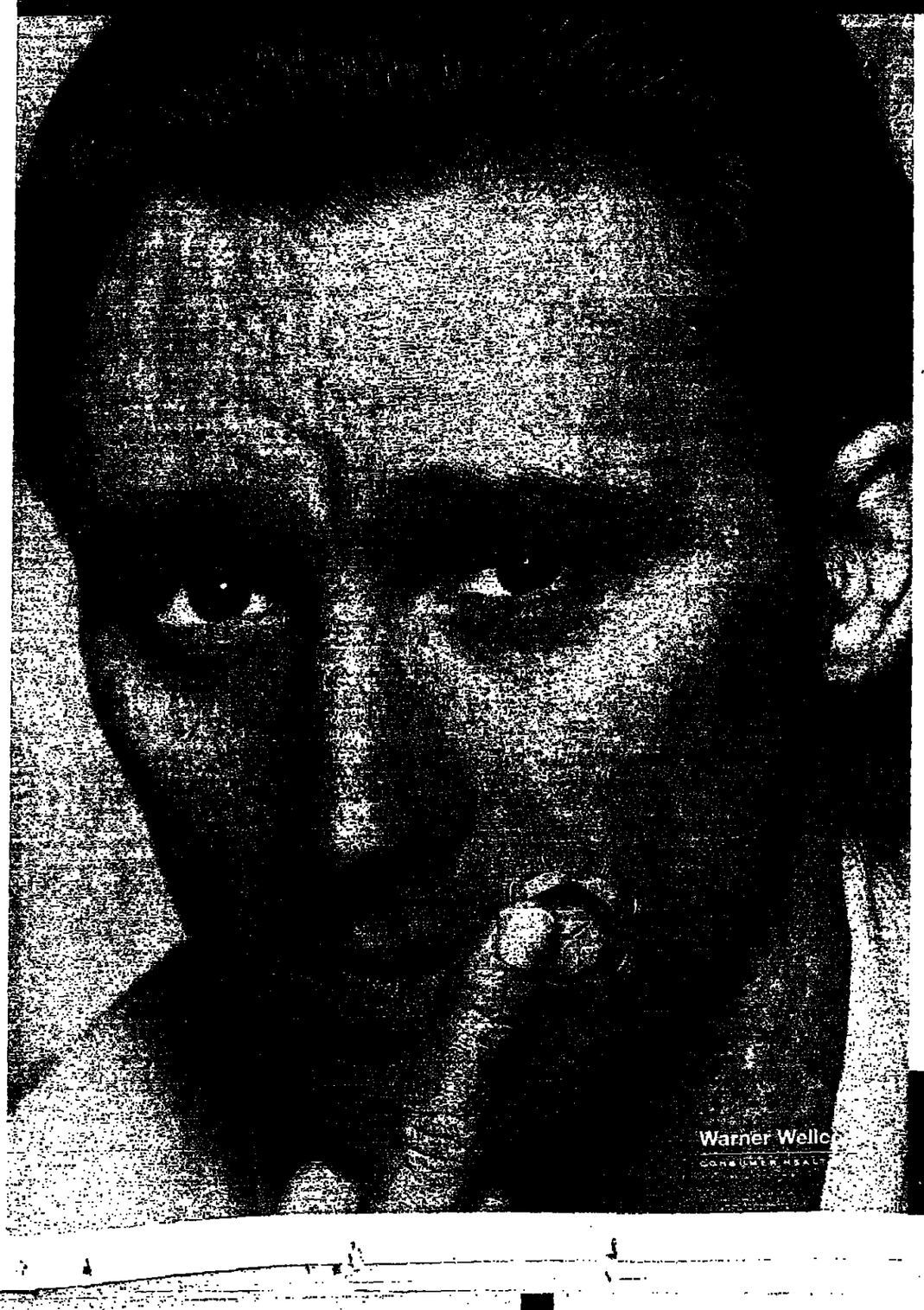
THE demand by a rapist and murderer to be executed by firing squad rather than receive a lethal injection is causing problems for prison authorities in Utah.

John Taylor will become America's first inmate to die by the bullet since Gary Gilmore in 1977, unless his lawyers mount a successful appeal by January 26. The Utah Department of Corrections is trying to establish an acceptable protocol to accommodate his wishes, since the firing squad site has been shut down.

Utah is the only state to offer a choice between lethal injection and the firing squad. Taylor, 36, convicted of raping and strangling an 11-year-old girl in 1988 but who maintains his innocence, said: "I don't want to go flipping around, like a fish out of water."

☐ Huntsville: Esequel Banda, 31, who murdered a woman, 74, has set a record by being the eighteenth person to be executed in Texas this year. *(Reuter)*

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Peres urges Assad to join in building permanent peace

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND ROSS DUNN IN NABLUS

SHIMON PERES, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday made an emotional appeal to President Assad to join him in fashioning a lasting peace in the Middle East.

In an address to Congress the Prime Minister, who inherited the mantle of the assassinated Yitzhak Rabin, outlined his vision for a deal with Damascus. He said: "I would like to use this podium to turn to President Hafez al-Assad of Syria and say to him, 'Let us not look back. Let fingertips touch a new hope. Let each party yield to the other, he to us, we to him'." He added: "We stand ready to negotiate relentlessly until all gaps are bridged, if you will."

Mr Peres's speech came a day after President Clinton declared that there was a "fundamental new reality" in the Middle East for peace after Mr Rabin's death.

Syria welcomed last night Mr Peres's commitment to peace. It said it would discuss plans with Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, due to visit the Syrian capital this week.

But Mr Peres has yet to mention Israel's stance on the Golan Heights, captured in the 1967 war. Syria demands its unconditional return.

In the West Bank city of Nablus yesterday, Jewish and Arab forces closed ranks to ensure a peaceful end to 28 years of Israeli occupation. As thousands of Palestinians tried to storm the Israeli army headquarters and jail complex, the newly formed Palestinian police formed a human shield to protect the Israeli soldiers.

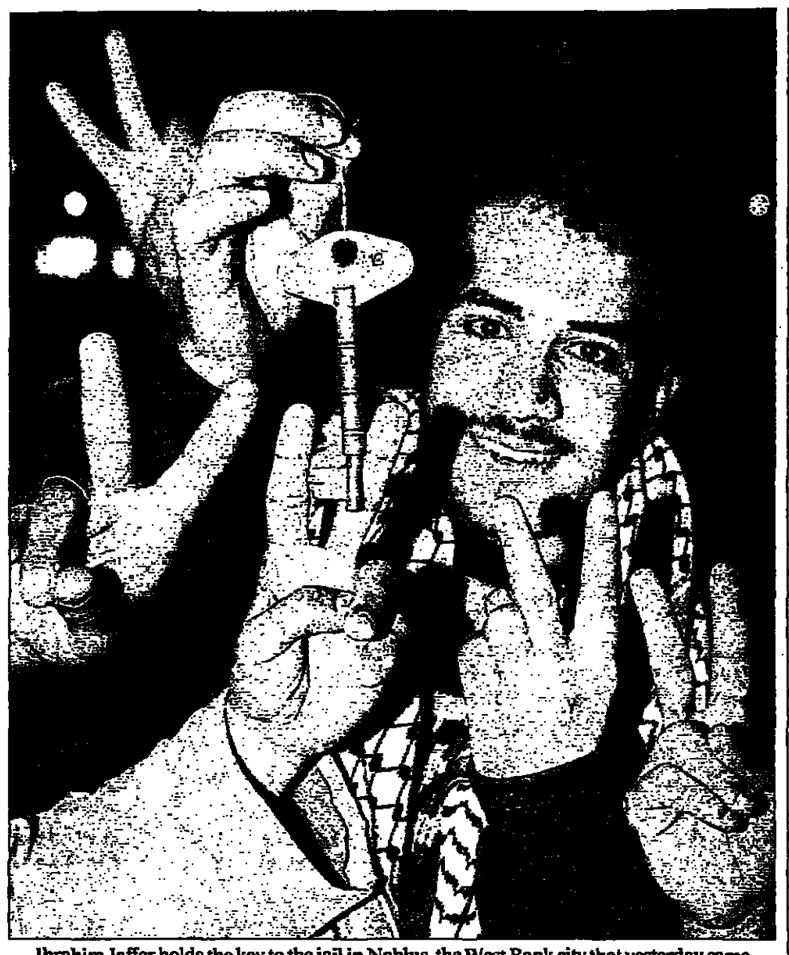
Israel's withdrawal from Nablus, the largest Arab city on the West Bank, came a day earlier than expected. But news of the pullout spread quickly and crowds shouting "they are gone, they are gone" gathered outside the army headquarters and the adjacent prison, where many of them had been jailed and sometimes tortured.

Bassam Abu-Rabieh, 23, standing in the jail watchtower, said: "It's like a dream." He used to throw stones at the Israeli soldiers who had stood on the very spot just hours ago, an action that guaranteed a spell in jail.

☐ **Bethlehem:** Plans for the first peaceful Christmas ceremony in the birthplace of Christ, to be televised live to a worldwide audience, have been overshadowed by a fear that Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader due to attend it, could be the target of an assassination attempt.

Witness filmed Rabin murder

Jerusalem: A witness to the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the former Israeli Prime Minister, filmed the killing with a video camera, a Justice Ministry official confirmed yesterday. He said the amateur film was handed to a commission of inquiry about a month ago and would be handed over to police. *(AP)*



Ibrahim Jaffer holds the key to the jail in Nablus, the West Bank city that yesterday came under Palestinian control. Many people in the city were held there during Israel's rule

Mohajirs bury their dead in Karachi

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KARACHI

KARACHI buried some of its dead yesterday in a mass turnout that symbolised the crumbling economic, political and ethnic state of Pakistan's biggest and most important city. The threatened disintegration of the financial capital poses one of the greatest dangers to the country since its formation in 1947.

More than 1,500 have died on Karachi's streets this year in sniper attacks, revenge killings and firebombings. Two of the latest victims, shot after being tortured, were the brother and nephew of Altaf Hussain, the leader of the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM), a street gang turned political party. Mr Hussain wields unrivalled authority over the 20 million Mohajirs by telephone from a semi-detached in Mill Hill, north London. He fled Pakistan three years ago, leaving an empty house that has become almost a shrine.

The Government accuses the MQM of terrorism. Most of its office-holders, operating underground, face a barrage of criminal charges. Mr Hussain, 42, has been described by Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, as a cowardly rat, and he faces scores of murder, torture and arson charges. Pakistan and Britain do not have an extradition treaty.

The killing of his relatives brought more veiled threats by MQM leaders to declare Karachi an independent province, which would effectively mean civil war. "So far the MQM has not demanded a separate province because we want to solve these problems in negotiations," Mr Hussain said in London recently.

Tribunal begins Rwanda trials

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE first ring leaders of the genocide in Rwanda were charged yesterday with the murder of more than 100,000 people in one district of the tiny Central African Republic.

Richard Goldstone, the South African judge who heads the tribunal, said the names of the eight accused will remain secret until they are arrested. Four of the accused are believed to be held in Zambia and are to be extradited to Arusha, Tanzania, where the tribunal is sitting.

The trials of about 600 people, implicated in the murder of a million Rwandans, are likely to get off to a slow start, however, since only New Zealand and Australia have passed laws enabling the extradition of the genocide suspects. "The indictments mark the beginning of a long road ... many challenges lie ahead," Dr Goldstone said.

The eight ring leaders come from Kibuye, beside Lake Kivu, where the killings began in April last year. At least 100,000 Tutsis perished there.

After several days of talks in New York, the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Rwanda was salvaged yesterday after the Tutsi-led Government relented on its demand that the 2,100 peacekeepers be withdrawn. Rwanda has agreed to let 1,400 stay.

US calls on Peking to release dissident

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

AMERICA has demanded the immediate release of Wei Jingsheng, China's most famous dissident, who goes on trial today, perhaps for his life, in Peking.

"We believe that Wei should be released immediately," said Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman. "We do not believe there is any justification for his detention by the Chinese Government, much less his trial."

Foreign reporters in Peking who applied to attend the trial have been told all passes have been allocated to "the public", which in China means carefully selected people and perhaps to his family. Mr Wei is being tried for "conspiring to overthrow the Government".

"Under any normal country, any normal system of justice," Mr Burns added, "... Mr Wei ought to be released."

The trial will merely be a show one, unless Mr Wei is given the chance to mount a proper defence, Amnesty International said in London. Neither Mr Wei's family nor his lawyers have been allowed to see him and they have been given no details of the charges that he will have to face, Amnesty added. "We consider Wei Jingsheng to be a prisoner of conscience who is being held for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression."



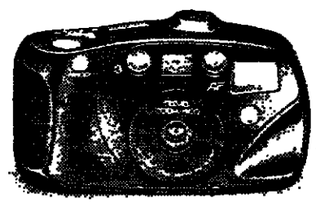
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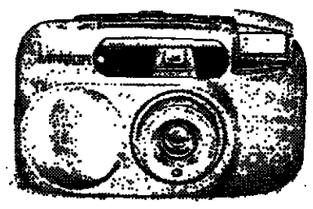
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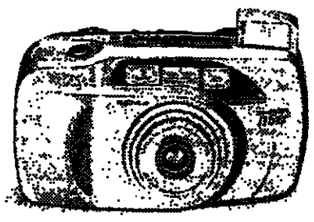
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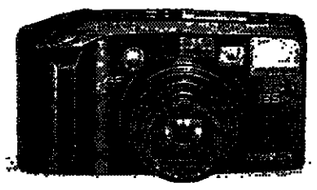
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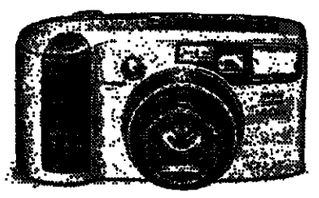
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Bosnian Serb general was obsessed with getting war crime charges dropped

Russian pressure secured release of French pilots

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE release of the two French pilots, held captive since their Mirage was shot down on August 30, was finally engineered after an extraordinary but failed attempt by General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb army commander, to free himself of war crimes charges.

Ever since he was indicted as a war criminal by the International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague on July 25, General Mladic, the bull-headed leader of the 85,000 Bosnian Serb troops, had become obsessed with the idea of getting the charges dropped. He took exception to being named as a war criminal, according to senior Western diplomatic sources.

When Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignet, the squadron commander and navigator of a Mirage 2000 flying over a Serb munitions site, were shot down over Pale, they provided General Mladic with a vital bargaining chip in his personal campaign against the indictment.

He turned to the Russians for help and for the next three months, they played the key role in trying to organise a deal under which there would be a quid pro quo for the release of the Frenchmen.

Yesterday President Chirac of France praised the Russians for the pressure that they had applied and acknowledged the role they had played in freeing the pilots. However, the French leader made no mention of an extraordinary incident in The Hague on Sunday, which was to be the final throw by the Russians to try to meet General Mladic's demands to have the war crimes indictment set aside.

> Milosevic saw his credibility was at stake, so he held the sword of Damocles above Mladic's head

With the French Government threatening to "hit" the Bosnian Serbs if they did not release the pilots by midnight on Sunday, Leoniid Skotnikov, the Russian Ambassador to The Netherlands, paid a visit to Antonia Cassese, the president of the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, only hours before the French deadline.

Mr Skotnikov, under orders from Moscow, appealed to Mr Cassese to "freeze" the war crimes indictment against General Mladic. According to senior Western diplomatic sources, he was "sent packing".

Last night a spokeswoman for the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, confirmed that the Russian Ambassador had made a last-minute appeal. "The ambassador came on Sunday and asked for the indictment to be frozen. Mr Cassese said it was not up to him. It was a matter for the war crimes' prosecutor. However, he said he saw no reason for such a request to be made."

Mr Skotnikov's failed visit on Sunday was the final blow for General Mladic who, it is believed, has been in control of the fate of the two French pilots ever since they were captured after baling out of their Mirage aircraft.

The realisation that time was running out for the Serb general came when the French Government made it clear it was not interested in negotiations. With the Bosnia peace treaty-signing ceremony in Paris only days away, France consulted briefly with her allies on the question of reimposing sanctions on Belgrade if the two pilots were not freed.

Publicly, France demanded that the Serbs release the two pilots by midnight on Sunday, or "suffer the consequences". Officials threatened unspecified diplomatic, military or economic action.

Senior American and British diplomatic sources said there was no hint from Paris that the French planned to mount a military operation but the wording of the statement, which deliberately referred to "hitting" the Serbs, was intended to leave in the air the possibility that some unilateral action was also being plotted.

The thought of sanctions being reimposed persuaded President Milosevic of Serbia to apply the maximum pressure on General Mladic to release the Frenchmen.

Mr Milosevic had been warned by many Western ambassadors in Belgrade, including Ivor Roberts, the British chargé d'affaires, that the French threat to call for renewal of sanctions would be treated sympathetically by France's allies.

One American source said: "Milosevic realised that his credibility was at stake, so he held the sword of Damocles above Mladic's head, threatening to withhold all support for him."

French claims that there had been no secret deal were confirmed by American and British diplomatic sources.

Although the Russian attempt to freeze the war crimes indictment failed, Moscow played a substantial part in applying pressure on Mr Milosevic and General Mladic. The Russian moves were carried out by officials from the Defence Ministry and the intelligence services, under the orders of President Yeltsin.

After the failed Russian visit to the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague on Sunday, General Mladic realised he had no cards left to play.

The following day, Belgrade's independent BK television station reported for the first time that the French pilots were alive. Pavle Bulatovic, the Serbian Defence Minister, was quoted as saying that the pilots were "safe and sound".

Richard Holbrooke, the American envoy who brokered the Bosnia peace treaty, also used his legendary powers of persuasion to impress on Mr Milosevic the importance of gaining the release of the pilots before the treaty ceremony. One stipulation was that the Bosnian Serbs were not going to be offered any concessions on the Dayton agreement in return for the Frenchmen.



General Mladic, left, and General Jean Philippe Drouin, the French Chief of Staff, with M Souvignet and M Chiffot in Zvornik, Bosnia, yesterday

Media brings profits of boom to Tuzla

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN TUZLA

THE media flood that has swamped Tuzla ahead of the American Nato contingent has brought to the population only the certainty of money.

Even the grim, snow-swept gates of the airfield, location of the US headquarters and logistical build-up, has been transformed by the circus of foreign television networks. Wooden platforms, built by Bosnians for four-figure German mark sums, surround the entrance, supporting lighting systems that bathe the scene.

Prices for apartments in the non-descript industrial town now compete with those of Paris and London. The cost of having a telephone installed is as much as 10,000 marks. The gang of street urchins that hung around the Hotel Tuzla (fully booked for the indefinite future) have never had it so good. For three-and-a-half years they ran a small-time protection racket looking after journalists' vehicles. A can of Coke, cigarettes, or small change, would guarantee the security of your car for 24 hours, while refusal to pay could result in anything from slashed tyres to car theft. However, business lacked continuity. Until now.

Today they are paid in fists full of dollars, and go about their business washed and in new clothes. "Yes, we like Dayton very much," Ben, their leader, said. "Many cars, many Americans, many dollars." As yet, there is scant evidence of the object of the journalists' attention — the American troops. So far, about 75 have arrived, a number drastically overshadowed by the 400-plus media members who wait daily in a penned enclosure on the runway to watch C-130s disgorge logistical equipment.

"I feel comfortable and I have been feeling comfortable," a US spokesman informed the massed banks of American cameras yesterday. "I ran this morning, I went out for a little jog in the snow," he noted, equally bizarrely, as the journalists nodded wisely and noted the importance of his words. It was about the most exciting news of the day.

The media's imagination is being stretched to new heights in their search for stories. A rumour that topless models on stickers in bubblegum packets bought in Tuzla were local girls produced a frantic search of investigative journalism, ostensibly to demonstrate the liberalism of Bosnia's Muslims, until it was revealed that the girls were from London. With this news, the disgruntled hacks returned to the newly-opened bars.

I prefer the jaded realism of central Bosnia. In Gornji Vakuf two days ago, a Croatian landlord said that we could not stay with some of the neighbours, as they had left the country during the war and he would have their houses blown up if they tried to make money by renting now. It was almost like the old days.

Last-ditch Sarajevo poll will bring no changes of mind



Milosevic he agreed plan

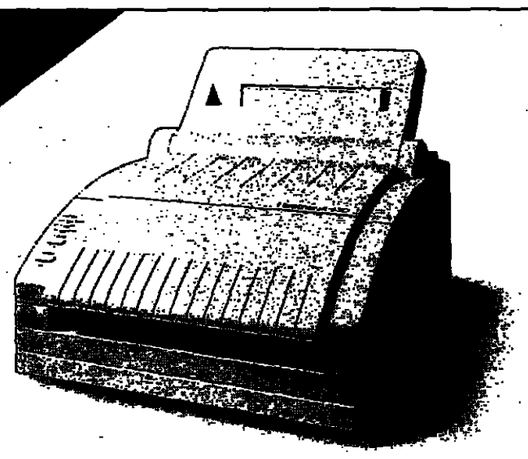
FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN PALE

IN A last-ditch effort to persuade peace negotiators to change the Dayton agreement before it is signed in Paris tomorrow, the Bosnian Serbs held a referendum in Serb-held parts of Sarajevo yesterday to voice their opposition.

The ballots posed the question: "Are you in favour of Serb Sarajevo becoming a part of the Muslim/Croat Federation that will be under the control of the Muslim Government?" Nearly everyone is expected to reply "no", but even an overwhelming negative vote will have no bearing on the pact agreed by President Milosevic of Serbia and other regional leaders.

The Bosnian Serbs have used the tactic of subjecting international peace proposals to popular referendums in the past to thwart peace efforts, but this time the international negotiators have made clear that the plan will be signed and implemented as it stands, insisting that guarantees for the Serbs have been provided.

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RLD TIM

European leaders to bless 'baptism' of single currency

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BARRING an upset, Europe's citizens will be told by the end of the week that they will soon be able to exchange their marks, francs or other coinage for something called the Euro.

The German-inspired baptism of the single currency is likely to be the most newsworthy product of the summit in Madrid where European Union leaders will do their best to avoid fanning the embers of doubt that have flickered into life in recent weeks. "Euro" evokes no enthusiasm beyond Germany. Ungainly in some tongues and nearly a term of abuse in others, the name is expected to be endorsed with little enthusiasm by leaders eager to avoid further discord.

Britain has no objections, although "the idea of christening this baby before it is even born is a slightly bizarre idea", said one British official. Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, is almost desperate for a name to launch the "great campaign of explanation" that will teach citizens the merits of the single currency in the new year.

While much of France has rebelled against the budgetary discipline decreed by Maastricht and senior German officials have begun whispering about delays in the monetary scheme, the EU leaders will try to fix the countdown to its launch in 1999. Oskar Lafontaine, the leader of the German Social Democratic Party, said yesterday that the single currency could become "a pan-European recession programme".

President Chirac's remaining qualms over abandoning "Ecu", the name mentioned in



the Maastricht treaty, are expected to evaporate with a concession from Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, on the date for fixing the founding membership. France wants the list to be decided in December 1997, well ahead of its March 1998 election, while the other EU members accept Germany's argument that they should wait until the spring of 1998, once economic data are complete.

Most of John Major's counterparts are keen to prevent him from opening a can of worms with his demand for an urgent look at the consequences of proceeding to monetary union with only a handful of countries. "We are just not going to let the British stir up more trouble in Madrid," said one diplomat. "It is going to be hard enough to avoid being distracted by the noise in France."

Britain deems the matter to be vital because the birth of a restricted Euro-money club will transform the nature of the Union. "The first step is to get our partners to see that there is a problem," the British official said. The result will probably be a request for a study from the European Monetary Institute, the embryo EU central bank.

Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, has fixed a tight agenda for discussion of the revamp of the Maastricht treaty, the most imminent event on the EU timetable. His aim is to avoid quarrels over moves to deeper integration, which pit Britain against the rest in key areas.



The German container ship *Sabine D* in the Kiel canal near Rendsburg, northern Germany, yesterday after hitting the bank. It was then struck by the freighter *Baltic Champ*, sailing under a Panamanian flag. Ten people were slightly hurt and the busy canal has been closed

Blast raises EU summit fears

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THERE was concern yesterday for the security of the 15 Prime Ministers and four Latin American Presidents who will be attending this week's European Union summit in Madrid after Monday's car bomb attack, which is believed to have been carried out by Basque separatists.

The funerals were held for the six victims, all employed in the transport department of the Spanish Admiralty in the capital. The attack against the minibus taking them home showed that Eta, which is fighting for an independent Basque state, has a commando unit operating freely in Madrid, in spite of the huge security build-up for the summit.

"Eta attacks when it can and where it can," an Interior Ministry spokesman said. "We don't relate the Eta attack to anything other than its periodic appearance. We had already reinforced security as much as possible for the summit, anticipating any eventuality."

The meeting on Friday and Saturday of the European Council marks the end of Spain's six-month presidency of the EU. Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, appears to have achieved Spain's objectives for the presidency, but a cloud hangs over his personal future and that of his scandal-hit, minority Socialist Government.

Right-wing chameleon dazzles Austria

FROM ROGER BOYES IN VIENNA

JÖRG HAIDER'S eyes have been scratched out, his nose resembles that of Pinocchio, and there is a swastika on his chin. The scarred campaign posters of Herr Haider tell the story: the 45-year-old sunbed-tanned and Porsche-driving populist has polarised the Austrian elections, injecting passion into the most placid of political systems.

The latest opinion polls indicate that Herr Haider's right-wing Freedom Party is no longer merely a protest grouping but has become a third force in Austria, capable of shattering half a century of cosy consensus politics. The Social Democrats are in the lead with 34 to 35 per cent, the conservative People's Party has 26 to 28 per cent, and Herr Haider is supported by 23 to 25 per cent. There is still much to play for before the election on Sunday.

The rise of Herr Haider — only three years ago he was on the political margins with about 14 per cent of the vote — has prompted some unusual soul-searching. Is Herr Haider an Austrian version of Silvio Berlusconi, a European Ross Perot? Certainly he has poached some Perot campaigning techniques, using flash cards during television debates with provocative questions ("Who has stolen our gold reserves?") and dubious statistics. But perhaps, his critics say, Herr Haider is something more sinister: the personification of the dark side of Austria.

He has reinvented himself many times. Once he was a committed pro-European: now he is equally committed against European Union membership and to European monetary union. Once he was a pan-Germanist: now he speaks about increasing German influence. Three years ago he praised Hitler's employment policies; now he is for radical spending cuts.

On the campaign trail in Carinthia, Herr Haider barely needs to exercise his fabled charisma. This is his home territory. He jumps on the stage — the backdrop poster reads: "He has never lied to you!" — and launches into a 12-minute law and order speech.

He wants a slimmer State, he says in a clear tenor that soars above the clinking beer glasses, but not a slimmer health system or police force. The audiences bang their fists on the trestle-tables in applause. Then Herr Haider is off to the next beer hall and a brass band strikes up again.

The local Freedom Party candidates



Haider yesterday: uses Perot campaigning techniques

try to bask in the aura of their departed boss. His phrases and examples have been dutifully written down in notebooks and will be repeated throughout the campaign.

His parents were Nazis. His father, whose Carinthian estates were inherited by Jörg, took part in the unsuccessful 1934 Austrian putsch attempt; his mother was group leader of a Nazi girls' organisation. In Austria, and especially in Carinthia, such a background does not disqualify anybody from a political career.

If, as seems possible, Herr Haider emerges from Sunday's elections with his power enhanced and makes common cause with Wolfgang Schuessel, the conservative leader, Austria will shift rightwards. But the betting is that Herr Haider would reinvent himself yet again, as a respectable figure of the Centre-Right. Whether Austrians are willing to accept yet another transformation in this most chameleon-like of politicians remains to be seen.

Leading article, page 19

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Prospects for peace recede as public-sector dispute heads for its 20th day

Strikers challenge Juppé with biggest show of strength

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

HUNDREDS of thousands of workers and students yesterday took to the streets of France in their most massive display of union strength so far as a crippling public-sector strike headed for its twentieth day with a few signs of peace on the horizon.

The French Government was left reeling after yet another day of action was marked by spreading strikes, disrupted transport and huge demonstrations in cities and towns throughout the country. Unions claimed that 200,000 demonstrators had marched through Paris although police put the figure at around 50,000. Between 50,000 and 70,000 demonstrators protested in Bordeaux, Toulouse and Rouen and more than 100,000 assembled in Marseille, where police described the march as the largest since May 1968. Union organisers claimed that up to 300,000 people joined the Marseille demonstration.

Last month Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, said that his Government would fall if two million protesters took to the streets in opposition to his plan to overhaul the welfare system. "M Juppé has talked of two million people. I believe he is going to have that number in the streets," Marc Blondel, head of the Force Ouvrière union, predicted as he joined the Paris march. "The balance of power is on the side of all the unions. So this is going to continue."

A series of meetings between the two sides and some key concessions by M Juppé have failed to pacify most of the unions. Strike leaders yesterday repeated demands for the entire welfare plan to be scrapped and railworkers voted to extend their strike by at least another 24 hours. "There is not one single objective, the withdrawal of the Juppé plan," Louis Viannet, head of the communist-led CGT union, said.

A third of France's 2.1 million civil servants stopped work yesterday, plunging public services into fresh chaos and nearly half the country's teachers also went on strike, closing most schools. The Government, which has a four-fifths majority in parliament, was expected to survive another vote of no confidence last night. But there are growing signs of rebellion within the ruling coalition. Philippe Briand, an MP in the ruling RPR party of which the Prime Minister is the formal head, spoke grimly of a real Juppé problem, as parliament prepared to debate the no confidence motion tabled by opposition Socialists.

"In order to be able to govern it is not enough just to have ideas, a plan, solutions, one must also persuade the people of what you want to do," M Briand said. M Juppé himself has become a prime focus of the strikers' anger. Cries of "Juppé, resign!" rang out as the marchers set out across Paris yesterday, waving banners, brandishing flaming torches and compounding the already solid traffic jams. One group carried a coffin, to signify the hoped-for burial of the Juppé welfare plan.

Yesterday's demonstration in Paris was the seventh in two months, and the largest yet. Striking air traffic controllers disrupted travel at both Paris airports yesterday morning and several provincial airports closed down while trains, the Metro and buses remained paralysed.

To avoid the traffic disruption the French Government has moved today's international conference on Bosnia outside Paris to the Royaumont Abbey near Charles de Gaulle airport. In his latest, increasingly desperate bid to appease the strikers, on Monday night M Juppé agreed to hold a "social summit" on employment issues, but employers organisations yesterday criticised the move, saying it could open a Pandora's Box of demands from private sector workers.

Two of the more moderate unions have called for a return to work after M Juppé backed down and agreed to preserve railworkers' generous pension benefits and suspend a planned overhaul of the state-owned rail system. But the majority of labour leaders remain adamentaly opposed to the rest of the Government's welfare package.



Blondel: "the strikes are set to continue"

Paris: Tonnes of goose and duck livers are piling up in the warehouses of south-west France because of the strike, as many foie gras producers find they cannot ship or receive orders (Ben Mcintyre writes). Foie gras makers sell 70 per cent of their product at Christmas, but disruptions to freight and postal services have pushed many to the edge of bankruptcy. "The situation is explosive and it cannot go on," said Henri-Bernard Cartier, president of the agricultural Gers. Foie gras makers are expected to mount their own demonstrations next month.



Demonstrators carry eye-shaped banners that read "Juppé, I am keeping my eye on you", through Nice yesterday. Thousands joined the protests against welfare reforms in towns and cities throughout France

French leader forced to give ground

BY BEN MACINTYRE

JUST last week Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, said bluntly that there would be no turning back on his plans to cut France's huge deficit in time for European monetary union.

However, a week is an eternity in politics when thousands are marching in protest and millions more are taking to the streets because public transport has been brought to a standstill for 20 days. M Juppé has been forced to eat at least some of his words or, as one commentator put it, he "has not yet eaten his hat but he has eaten the rim of it". However, while his concessions appear, at least on the surface, to signal a government retreat, the central elements of his plan to overhaul the country's indebted welfare system are still intact and the Government's drive towards EMU remains, at least in numerical terms, on track.

The hotly contested five-year plan to overhaul the state-owned rail company SNCF, which rail workers rightly feared would lead to job losses with the closure of smaller branch lines, has been put "on ice". M Juppé has now promised that train, underground and bus drivers will still be allowed to retire at 50, ten years earlier than workers in the private sector.

He has also bowed to demands for a "social summit" with union leaders on a range of employment issues, while strike leaders have called for discussion of pay and unemployment. He has said he is prepared to "negotiate" on everything except welfare reform. However, there lies the rub: the concessions he has offered so far do not seriously impinge on his key economic calculations.

Premier's condition worsens

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

TENSIONS in Greece's ruling Socialist party deepened as its ailing leader, Andreas Papandreou, 76, the Prime Minister, took a turn for the worse yesterday. Party faithful continue to fend off the reformers who are calling for the leader to be eased out.

Most Socialist parliamentary deputies remain cowed by Mr Papandreou even in the fourth week of his critical illness. But the medical team treating him at the Onassis Heart Centre said yesterday that his condition had taken "a dangerous turn" after an unspecified new viral infection.

Fiat chief expected to play role of back-seat driver after retirement

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE abdication of Gianni Agnelli as chairman of Fiat will not erode his reputation as the uncrowned king of Italy, commentators said yesterday. Signor Agnelli, 74, announced on Monday that he would stand down next year after 30 years as chairman.

His successor to run Italy's largest private corporation will be Cesare Romiti, 72, Fiat's managing director. Magistrates in Turin want him to stand trial on corruption charges. But even if their formal request filed last week is rejected, company sources say that it is intended that Signor Romiti will be only a transitional chairman, to be succeeded when he reaches 75 by Signor Agnelli's nephew Giovanni Alberto, 31, who is on the Fiat board. Signor Alberto is a popular figure who did his military service as a private in a parachute regiment of the *carabinieri*, the paramilitary police. His commercial training included six months on the Fiat assembly line under a pseudonym. He runs the Piaggio motor scooter company in Tuscany and is expected to become one of three new joint managing directors of Fiat.

But *L'Avvocato*, the lawyer, or *Il Re*, the king, as the sprightly outgoing chairman is known, will continue to take all major decisions on the future of his vast empire as long as his health lasts, insiders say. After he leaves the chair at Fiat's June annual general meeting, Signor Agnelli will still head the family holding company that controls Fiat. Signor Agnelli has always eschewed formal politics but his pronouncements on Italy's destiny make headlines. His interests have expanded beyond car production into many fields, including control of the *Corriere della Sera* and *La Stampa* newspapers, insurance, banking, chemicals, textiles, missile technology, munitions, mineral water and beer.



Agnelli: will run family controlling company

The power of his clan also is evident in the activities of his sister, Susanna Agnelli, who is Italy's first woman Foreign Minister and a dominant force in the Government of the Prime Minister, Lamberto Dini.

Signora Agnelli, 73, has lobbied for the European Union's inter-governmental conference on revising the Maastricht treaty to be held in Turin, which is known as a Fiat city, rather than in less drab regional capitals.

Alpine ski slopes run risk of no snow

FROM REUTER IN ROME

WITHIN 50 years, skiers could find no snow on their favourite Alpine slopes, the environmental lobby group, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), said yesterday.

The group outlined the stark prediction as scientists from the United Nations-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change met in Rome to approve research that suggests the Earth's average temperature could rise by two degrees next century.

The WWF said that half the world's glaciers and 85 per cent of its deltas could disappear within 100 years as the greenhouse effect caused lower snowfalls, more rain and hotter summers.

Scientists believe that the phenomenon is caused largely by burning fossil fuels that release greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, which trap heat in the atmosphere.

"The Alps are experiencing one of the fastest changes," said Paolo Lombardi, the international programme officer at WWF in Italy.

In some parts of the Swiss Alps, the snowline has risen 110 yards since 1980 and Martin Beniston, who helped to co-ordinate an IPCC study into the effect of global warming on mountains said that pattern was set to continue.

"The expected rise in the snowline in winter is 100 metres for every degree increase in temperature," he said. Signor Lombardi said that that would put famous Alpine ski resorts such as Courcheval and Val d'Isere at risk.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chechen election brought forward

Moscow: The pro-Moscow parliament in rebel Chechenia brought forward voting in national and local elections by three days yesterday in an attempt to keep them on track despite separatists' threats.

The Russia-wide election and the poll to find a Chechen leader had been planned for Sunday under plans to restore order to the region, the scene of a separatist rebellion in which thousands have been killed. Voting will start tomorrow instead. *(Reuter)*

Manila alert

Manila: Philippines police were put on alert after a left-wing group killed four people, including an industrialist and a boy of five, in what President Ramos said was a declaration of war on the State. *(Reuter)*

Rift warning

Sydney: Relations between Canberra and London could be damaged if Britain is dragged into the republican debate, Sir Roger Carrick, the British High Commissioner to Canberra, told monarchists.

Train death trip

Munich: A sight-seeing trip aboard a glass-ceiling train ended in tragedy near the Austrian border when another train crashed into it head-on, killing one person and injuring 57, police said. *(Reuter)*

Brussels march

Brussels: Tens of thousands of public service workers are expected to march today against government austerity plans and vent their fears of job losses in the privatisation of state companies. *(AP)*

Deer life

New York: An American scientist trekking through remote valleys in Tibet has discovered a herd of red deer listed as "probably extinct", George Schaller found the herd 14,000ft above sea level.

Castro in Tokyo

Tokyo: President Castro of Cuba arrived in Japan for his first visit, an unofficial, 24-hour stopover during which he is expected to meet the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. *(Reuter)*

Father kills child

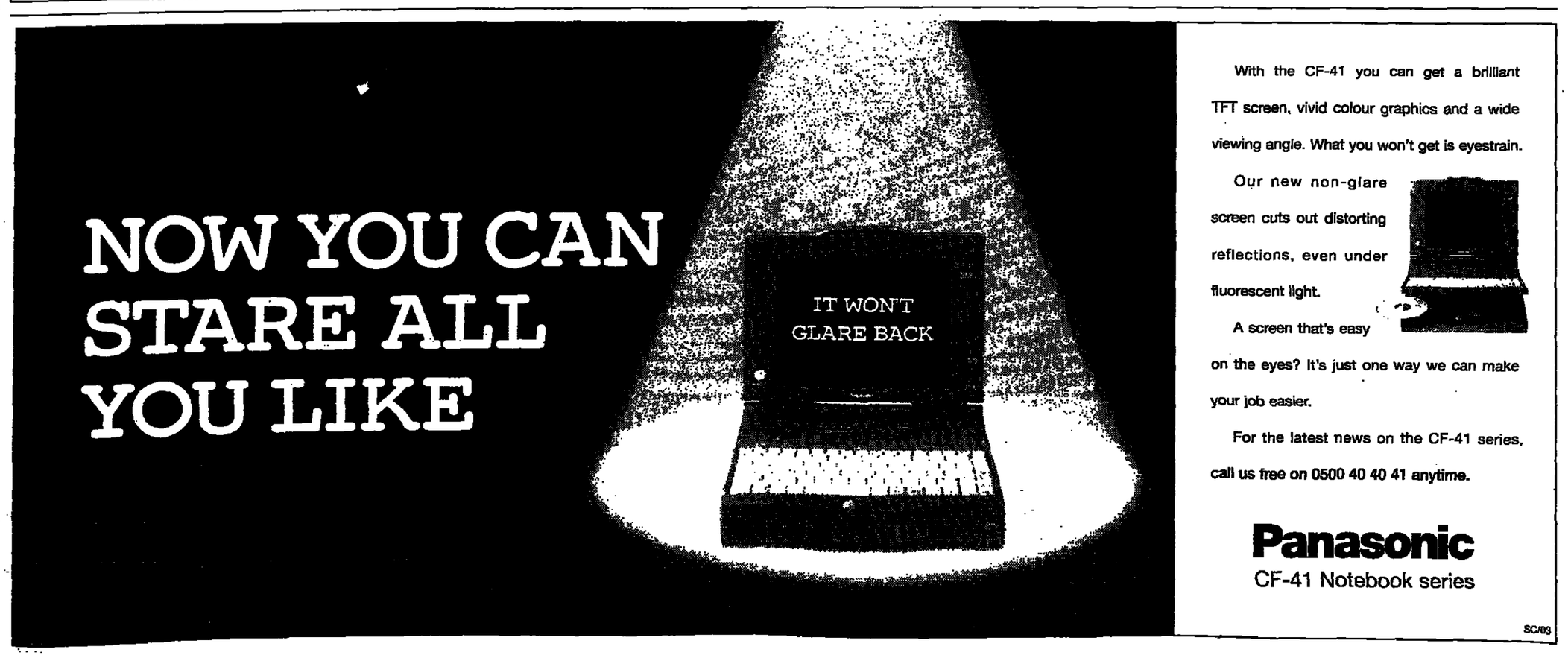
Missouri City: A man responding to a burglar alarm in his home shot and killed his daughter as she was hiding in a closet while playing truant. Police plan to refer evidence to a jury to decide charges. *(AP)*

Afghans killed

Kabul: Three people, including two civilians, were killed and two others were injured when Taleban militia launched an artillery attack on the Afghan capital, witnesses and defence sources said. *(AFP)*

Really big news

Peking: The Chinese *Xian Evening News* has reprinted an edition 1,590 times its original size, 95ft long and 64ft wide on canvas, which it says is the world's largest newspaper. *(AP)*



Why Jaeger London, the company's sexy new directional line, has turned the spotlight on black this season

Partying in a dark mood



"It's a fact of life. Everybody still wears black in the evening," says Jeanette Todd, the design director for Jaeger, explaining why she included a mini-collection of black party dresses within this season's main collection. "It still sends out a message which says, 'I'm dressed up. I'm going out.' It's difficult to wear a dress in another colour. It's too much of a statement."

There are a selection of styles which Ms Todd hopes will suit all ages and shapes: a V-neck flared dress; an empire-line number; a spaghetti-strap crêpe dress; and an elegant long velvet dress with a white collar. Although Ms Todd hopes all women will welcome these dresses, she had one lady in mind when she designed this last dress: Anna Harvey, the soignée deputy editor of *Vogue*. "I could just see her in it," Ms Todd says.

Ms Todd believes the black dress is also a low-maintenance option, which explains its popularity during the festive season. "You just put it on and pull up the zip," she says. "It's an easy choice, but I also thought it was right for now."

There are few people who know as much as Ms Todd about getting it right. She trained in the exacting world of British haute couture, and has worked at every market level from Jean Muir to Monsoon, from Murray Arbeid to Principles.

Her forte is image-building. Ms Todd joined Jaeger in 1992, and set about re-energising what had become a predictable and, well, dull label. "I wanted to do something which would sustain the traditional customer, but also create something new," she says.

So she introduced Jaeger London, which offers more directional fashion looks. "We took the concept of Jaeger and pushed it. What is great is that the mainline customer is coming along with us.

"Everybody thinks of their local Jaeger where their mum or great-aunt shops, but there are 150 outlets in the UK and a large international market. The range of product available has to work on every level."

Ms Todd is quick to point out that there is more to being a designer than sketching at a drawing board. She heads a small design team and works with design co-ordinators who assemble the collections for both labels: the more mainstream Jaeger, and Jaeger London.

"It's not as if we're rocket scientists," she says, "but it's nice to offer newness to people. A label like Jaeger can say, 'C'mon, it's OK to wear chocolate-brown or leather jeans,' and people feel reassured. They know the quality will be good and it won't look mad.

"I think British brands like ourselves have a duty to offer a wearable interpretation of fashion. One of our bestselling lines, for example, is satin and velvet jeans, which doesn't really surprise me because I think we underestimate what women want to wear. They may wear the jeans in a different way with a fabulous sweater or a big shirt — not in a racy way — but they will look great. For spring we have even done hipsters."

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB





FAR LEFT: Flared dress, £199; tuxedo jacket, £329. Court shoes, from a selection, Salvatore Ferragamo, 24 Old Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 5007). Tights, £2.99, Sock Shop, branches nationwide.

CENTRE ABOVE: Strappy dress, £199. Link belt, £89. Diamanté shoes, £39.99, Ravel, branches nationwide (0171-631 35434). Diamanté earrings, £50, Tateossian, Jess James, 3 Newburgh Street, W1. Tights, as above.

CENTRE BELOW: Crêpe empire-line dress, £199. Silk shoes, £155, Salvatore Ferragamo, as above. Silk bag, from a selection, Russell & Bromley. Natural tights, £3.65, Pretty Polly, major department stores.

LEFT: Velvet dress, £349. Diamanté/silver necklace, £105, Tateossian, as above. All clothes by Jaeger London at Jaeger, 200 Regent Street, W1 (0171-200 4211).

Photographs by NICK BRIGGS. Make-up by Ellie Wakamatsu. Hair by Mandy Lyons. Styling by Philippa Esling.

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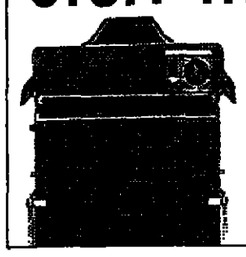
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MORAL LOTTERY

Both regulation and regulator have futures at stake

The current dispute about the National Lottery differs sharply from those which have preceded it. In the 13 months since the first draw in November 1994 there have been heated arguments about the scale of the weekly jackpot and the artistic, sporting and charitable groups which have benefited from this national obsession. The current controversies surrounding GTech, one of the companies in the Camelot consortium operating the lottery, have shifted debate onto unsettling new territory.

First, there is Richard Branson's allegations of attempted bribery by GTech, the controversial US company which was eventually part of the winning lottery consortium. According to Mr Branson, who was at the time planning a bid on a non-profit basis for charity, the chairman of GTech asked him pointedly: "There is always a bottom line . . . in what way can we help you?".

GTech is an aggressive and successful company in the US gambling industry. Whatever the truth of allegations made against it in BBC's *Panorama* programme on Monday night, GTech's interest, like all other lottery bidders other than Mr Branson, was in bids being for-profit. The force of Mr Branson's allegation of attempted bribery may now be tested in court. Meanwhile the sense of unease is strong.

Secondly, there are the allegations involving the lottery regulator, Peter Davis. The claim that Mr Branson later told him of the bribe and that he took no action is contested. Uncontested is the fact that before the awarding of a later "scratchcard" contract to the consortium that included GTech, Mr Davis used a private jet belonging to GTech for trips around the US. Mr Davis's claim to the Commons Public Accounts Committee that he did so in order to save taxpayer's money was, at best, an admission of culpable naivety. At worst — and the full details of the trips have yet to be published by either the regulator or the Heritage Department — they are an offence too damaging for his position to be tenable. When the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, hears Mr Davis's account for herself she will have to decide.

The integrity of the lottery has already suffered new and dangerous blows this week. Just how is it that this silk purse been turned into a sow's ear? One answer may be that those planning the lottery asked the wrong questions in the first place. When John Major first asked Whitehall to explore the idea in 1991, the greatest fear expressed was that the introduction of nationalised gambling would be a flop and a gross political embarrassment to ministers who had launched it with fanfare.

There was a strong predisposition to select a consortium with experience of running lotteries elsewhere. In fact, the lottery was always certain to succeed unless managed with peculiar incompetence. Almost anyone could make a profit from a state-sponsored monopoly gambling interest. Yet the private assumption in government circles when the lottery was launched was that the scheme could be entrusted only to the most experienced of hands.

Experience of gambling is not necessarily a virtue. Less time might have been spent worrying about the commercial prospects of the lottery, and more about the ethical dilemmas which its management would pose. Millions of Britons participate in the lottery every week. They all have a stake in who wins, who gains and how this new system of wealth redistribution is managed. Its regulation ought to be paramount. The greatest danger facing any regulator is what is known as "capture" by the companies under regulation. Mr Davis's acceptance of air flights from GTech does not inspire confidence that he properly understood either the pressures or his responsibility.

The broad issue raised by this fiasco is the future of regulation itself. The early advocates of privatisation in this country argued that stern regulation would address the fears of those worried that public monopolies would become a licence to print money in private hands. The reality has been messier. In particular, the regulation of the water industry has failed to meet public needs: now the ethics of the National Lottery have been called into question. This is a downward trend which the Government must halt. At stake is more than the fate of a single bid for the lottery.

HAIDER LAND

An unpleasant reminder of Viennese politics

The election campaign in Austria is turning nasty. A spate of letter-bombs has caused death and injury, mainly to prominent liberals, foreigners and those championing their cause. The election rhetoric in this normally cosy consensus state has grown sharper. And Jörg Haider, the radical right-wing leader of the Freedom Party, has injected an undertone that reminds all too many of Austria's darker, xenophobic past.

The rise of Herr Haider is a cause for concern. The latest polls show that his Freedom Party is no longer merely a protest of those frustrated by 40 years of corporatism; it now commands about a third of the vote. On Sunday he may be in a position to dictate terms to the Socialists and the People's Party, partners in the last tired coalition who fell out early over the Budget. Only three years ago he had no more than 14 per cent in the polls; his party had split; his petition to limit the rights of immigrants had fallen flat; and he was branded a pariah by the entire political establishment.

He thrived on such adversity. The more he was attacked, the greater his appeal in the Viennese backstreets and beerhalls of Carinthia. His message rang true, even to those who did not share his manicured far-right views. Postwar Austria has been an economic success story that has concealed the suffocating dictatorship of cronyism. Every job, every town hall appointment, every post in the Viennese music world has been filled by nominees of the two main parties, working out the spoils in backroom deals. Unfortunately, such corporatist societies grow sloppy and inefficient. They offer no opening for those with a grievance or young radicals wanting to shake things up. And with the end of the Cold War, the loss of Austria's political niche as an East-West bridge and a professional neutralism, and the harsher competitive world of European Union membership, Austria's politicians have lost direction. Herr Haider, however, has not. Many of those to whom his telegenic looks and charismatic rhetoric appeal remember similar simple solutions put forward across the border in Germany some 60 years ago. Herr Haider — unlike some in his party — has always distanced himself from the uglier obsessions of Fascists and neo-Fascists. But his phrasing is reminiscent of the 1930s: he hits out at gypsies and homosexuals, talks about clearing the "muck from the stables" of the political establishment and rails against the invasion of Austria by immigrants and asylum-seekers.

It goes down well, and underlines the failure of Austrian society to make the spiritual break with the past that has been so complete and contrite in Germany. Herr Haider is probably too much of a chameleon and opportunist to pose a real threat to democracy. But he will do well only because of the widespread frustration with the consensus he has challenged. That is a measure of the failure of 40 years of Austrian politics.

CHEERS, MR DORRELL!

The Health Secretary has delivered us a Christmas present

The season of merriment and good cheer must be here. Yesterday the Department of Health recognised what most of us always suspected: not only is alcohol good for us, but the recommended maximum consumption levels have been set far too low. With apposite timing, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, has raised the levels in time for Christmas parties.

This volte-face confirms the suspicion that the earlier limits were set artificially low by the health education industry so that it could lament the numbers who drank "unsafe" amounts of alcohol, and then ask for more government money to combat this "abuse".

Even now the recommendations seem to have been fairly arbitrarily drawn. A glance at other countries' maximum safe levels shows a huge variation, from one-and-a-half units a day for a Canadian man to 12 units a day for a French male manual worker. The only detectable correlations seem to be with religion and wine production. The most puritan, Protestant, politically correct countries have the lowest levels: while the Catholic, wine-growing countries have the highest.

Scientific evidence shows that alcohol improves people's health even at a relatively high level of consumption. A recent study of 12,000 British doctors over 13 years found that their death rate from all causes fell steadily with increased drinking until it reached a plateau from which it eventually started to rise again. But the level of drinking that produced the same risk of death as the teetotaller was a massive 63 units a week, or well over a bottle of wine a day.

The Department of Health has chosen to recommend the point at which this plateau starts to return to a rising curve as its recommended daily maximum. It might just as easily have chosen the level at which drinking starts to become more dangerous than not drinking. But that would have been intolerably high for the roundheads.

For the main reason that moderate or non-drinkers disapprove of drinking has little to do with health, and even less to do with driving. Those who drink little find those who drink a lot boring, irritating and embarrassing. In a Protestant country which values self-control above most other qualities, other people's loss of inhibition makes observers feel desperately uncomfortable.

But to link higher recommended drinking levels with drink-driving, as both the British Medical Association and Labour's Harriet Harman did yesterday, is insulting to the intelligence of the population. People drink in context: someone who will happily down four glasses of wine at a party when a passenger may drink almost nothing when behind a wheel. Many who drink steadily in the evening would not dream of doing so at lunchtime. Objections to Mr Dorrell's new guidelines tell us more about the puritan tendencies of the objector than about the sense of the recommendations themselves.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call for a change in interest rates

From Professor Tim Congdon and others

Sir, In his Budget speech (report, November 29) the Chancellor of the Exchequer forecast a 3 per cent rise in gross domestic product in 1996. In subsequent evidence to the Treasury committee of the House of Commons Treasury officials, including Dr Alan Budd, the chief economic adviser, made clear that this forecast was not dependent on a cut in interest rates from their present level. We are writing to express our concern that the Government has underestimated the danger that the current slowdown in economic activity could persist well into next year. Specifically, we believe that if interest rates are unchanged output growth in 1996 is most unlikely to reach 3 per cent.

In evidence to the Treasury committee Mr Colin Mowl said that the Treasury expected GDP to rise by 0.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1995. If this proves correct, it is mechanical to show that output growth has to run at just over 0.9 per cent in every quarter of 1996 (ie, equivalent at an annualised rate to about 3¾ per cent) to generate a 3 per cent rise in GDP for the year as a whole.

A growth rate of 3¾ per cent is well above trend and would imply quite a dramatic improvement in economic conditions between the sluggishness of late 1995 and relative buoyancy in early 1996. There is little current evidence pointing to such an improvement. On the contrary, many traditionally reliable leading indicators of activity suggest that demand could weaken further in the next few months.

The indicators relate partly to the UK itself. In this country many companies hold above-normal levels of stocks, which need to be reduced by production cutbacks. In addition, the construction industry is in renewed recession and the latest business surveys show a major decline in the balance of manufacturing companies planning to raise output. But perhaps even more serious are leading indicators of activity in our European neighbours, which suggest a high risk of falling output. However astute our own policies might be, a period of declining GDP in Germany, France and the Benelux countries would undoubtedly have an adverse effect on the British economy.

In these circumstances the prudent course is to move interest rates downwards in order to ensure a revival in demand. Although we agree with the Treasury that an outright recession is still unlikely, the evidence of short-term weakness in sales and orders is of direct and immediate concern. We concede that inflationary pressures might re-emerge at some future point, perhaps in the late 1990s, but such worries are rather remote and a matter of conjecture.

To repeat, all three of us agree that, with current interest rates, the Treasury's growth forecast for 1996 is unlikely to be met.

Furthermore, we all believe that the Government's target of 2½ per cent underlying retail inflation at the end of the present Parliament will probably be achieved, even allowing for the impact of an early cut in interest rates.

Yours etc,
TIM CONGDON,
GAVYN DAVIES
(Goldman Sachs International),
PATRICK MINFORD
(University of Liverpool),
Lombard Street Research Ltd,
Cannon Bridge,
25 Dowgate Hill, EC4.
December 12.

Standing down

From Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford (Conservative)

Sir, Your Chief Political Correspondent, Nicholas Wood, claims today that I have indicated that I am standing down at the next election because of disenchantment with foreign policy issues.

I gave no such indication, on the radio or anywhere else. I am standing down because I have served for 30 years and it is time for a change, both for my constituents and for me!

I have my views on foreign policy development, which I shall continue to promote, but they have nothing whatever to do with my decision.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOWELL (Chairman,
Foreign Affairs Committee),
House of Commons.
December 12.

Penny foolish

From Mr Barney Alterman

Sir, Like Major Tristram (letter, December 2; see also letter, December 11) I too had a request from the Inland Revenue for a minute underpayment — 8p in my case. I paid this, in full, at no cost to myself, simply by cash via Bank Giro.

Yours faithfully,
BARNEY ALTERMAN,
3 Forest House, Russell-Cotes Road,
Bournemouth, Dorset.
December 11.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Problems in mathematics education

From Professor Emeritus Anthony Ralston

Sir, The suggestion that a ban on calculators in tests for 11 and 14-year-olds (report and leading article, December 7) may redress the perceived problems in British mathematics education is not borne out by research.

If you wish, as you should, to test mental arithemetic you must ban calculators. But to believe that perceived problems with fractions or decimals or the understanding of percentages is a result of introducing calculators too early would be laughable if it were not so sad. The chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) should be worried about the under-use rather than over-use of calculators.

It is now 13 years since Sir Wilfred Cockcroft's report, *Mathematics Counts*, correctly urged that "normally" a calculator should be used for long division. It noted that "the evidence is strong that the use of calculators has not produced any adverse effect on computational ability". Thirteen years on, the evidence in my view is far stronger, in spite of the SCAA's finding that division is a "particular weakness".

The traditional emphasis on pencil and paper calculation meant that students focused so much on the process that they tended to lose understanding of the purpose.

Sincerely,
ANTHONY RALSTON
(Academic Visitor,
Department of Computing,
Imperial College of Science,
Technology, and Medicine),
Flat 4, Albert Court,
58 Prince Consort Road, SW7.
December 7.

From the Headmaster of Bootham School, York

Sir, It may indeed be true that "generations of parents . . . can remember a time when classroom testing was a routine part of a teacher's job" (leading article, December 7) but they may also remember that those tests were created and administered by the teachers themselves at a time most beneficial to the pupils in their care. They were not imposed from outside nor administered by inexperienced markers without adequate supervision.

If we could return to proper testing of the courses actually taught, rather than continue the present negative policy of insisting that teachers take hours of time in preparing pupils for inadequate tests, we should rapidly see standards rise.

I find it amazing that the SCAA should be surprised that the Shakespeare questions in tests for 14-year-olds elicited "unimaginative responses". If you set a question in the most pedestrian fashion you must surely expect a dulled response.

Shakespeare is an author of miraculous quality: to reduce his work to a mere scene is to demean his creativity and the marvel of his imagination. When, I wonder, did the "experts" at SCAA last actually teach Shakespeare?

Yours faithfully,
IAN SMALL,
Headmaster,
Bootham School, York YO3 7BU.
December 7.

From Mr James Macdonald

Sir, Government curriculum advisers have found that mathematical ability falls with calculators' use. This reinforces a long-suspected definition of a government adviser as someone paid to discover what the rest of us have known all along.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES MACDONALD,
58 Clifford Avenue,
Taunton, Somerset.
December 7.

Access to the law

From the Chairman of the Bar Council

Sir, I believe that the Head of the Public Information Office (letter, December 6; see also letters, December 8) has misunderstood the very fundamental question raised by Mr Justice Laddie (report, Law, December 5) on public access to the law of the land.

Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, the legislature continues the policy of previous legislation of conferring copyright, in the laws passed by Parliament, on the Crown. This means, in effect, that Government has complete control over the publication of statutory material in any form.

Recent investigations conducted for the Bar Council suggest that the United Kingdom legislature is alone in the whole of Europe, with the possible exception of Ireland, in granting to the State the means of controlling the dissemination of statutes and secondary legislation. Elsewhere in the world, the countries whose laws confer a similar monopoly on the State are generally those formerly governed by Britain, such as India and Singapore.

The Government should recognise that this privileged position can no longer be justified. Free competition in this area is as important as it is in other fields, such as the provision of telecommunication services. The law should be available to all at the minimum price, rather than at prices fixed by HMSO.

I am etc,
PETER GOLDSMITH, Chairman,
The General Council of the Bar,
3 Bedford Row, WC1.
December 8.

Costs against JPs

From Eur Ing Dr Peter L. Wyke

Sir, Predictable concern has been expressed in your columns at the award of costs against lay justices when their decisions are reversed following appeal (letters, December 4, 6, 12). Echoes of surcharging those found wanting in the exercise of public service are brought to mind; but it must be remembered that the performance of civic, including judicial, duty carries a proper burden of responsibility.

Lay magistrates, elected through advisory committees, epitomise the age-old infatuation with all things amateur in these islands. Their contribution to community cohesion and social leavening is well recorded, alongside that of other lay bodies; but despite some diminution in local esteem, their status is achieved without the need to expend long years in academic study and professional development.

The need for a more focused and professional structure throughout the judiciary has never been greater. In view of the increasing availability of trained graduates the tendency to appoint stipendiary magistrates is to be applauded.

Yours faithfully,
PETER L. WYKE,
Trefynant Hall,
Trefynant Park,
Acrefair, Wrexham, Clwyd.
December 12.

Divorce reform

From Professor J. Thomas Oldham

Sir, During my recent stay in England I was interested in the debate about the Government's divorce reform package [letters, November 2, 7, 11, 17, December 12]. The principal public concern regarding the proposed divorce law appears to be whether the law will significantly increase the English divorce rate. This concern appears unwarranted; most American scholars agree that the acceptance of no-fault divorce has not significantly affected the divorce rate in the US.

The proposal might have another less obvious effect that deserves attention. The current rule distinguishes between divorces by mutual consent and unilateral divorces. Under the current English system, unless the spouse desiring divorce can establish a fault ground the "deserted" spouse can extract some concessions for agreeing to a divorce by mutual consent. Otherwise, divorce cannot be obtained for five years.

The proposed change would alter this bargaining; all divorces could be obtained in one year, regardless whether the divorce was by mutual consent.

Before the divorce-reform proposal is accepted it might be useful to contemplate its effect on the bargaining of the spouses and to consider whether any amendments to the proposal therefore might be useful.

Sincerely,
TOM OLDHAM
(Visiting scholar, Wolfson
College, Cambridge),
The Law Center,
University of Houston,
4800 Calhoun Boulevard,
Houston, Texas 77204-6371.
December 8.

Cabinet complication

From Mr Geoffrey Wheatcroft

Sir, In his interesting article ("Five pillars of wisdom", December 11) on the likely "big five" in a future Blair Cabinet, Anthony Howard unwittingly highlights the huge constitutional trap which Labour has set for itself. That Cabinet will be committed to a devolved parliament for Scotland. And yet no fewer than three of Mr Howard's five are Scottish MPs.

The problem is not new, nor are answers far to seek. Under the first Home Rule Bill of 1886 Irish MPs were no longer to sit in the House of Commons. Under the second Bill of 1893 Irish MPs were to remain at Westminster with a view to guarding Irish interests, but halved in numbers, and with the crucial proviso that they would only vote on legislation directly affecting Ireland.

To those who advocated Home Rule the idea that a British Cabinet might be dominated by Irish MPs would have seemed too absurd to be worth discussing.

Can Mr Blair and his colleagues really not see that their own position is no less absurd?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY WHEATCROFT,
11 Southstoke Road,
Combe Down, Bath, Avon.
December 11.

Business letters, page 29

The future of rail privatisation

From Mr David Taylor

Sir, The opponents of rail privatisation are now in full cry. While the Government courageously tries to carry through its plans to denationalise this money-losing, over-manned, bureaucratic monster, union leaders, new Labour, Liberals and others campaign for the plan to be dropped and replaced by a programme of throwing unlimited taxpayers' money at it, politely called "investment in public transport".

My crystal ball tells me that in five years' time, as rail services improve and expand, these same people will be demanding further reductions in fares in order that the travelling public can share in the profits that have been generated from an efficiently run rail service. Others will be demanding a "windfall tax" to cream off further profits.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID TAYLOR,
20 Chepstow Drive, Bletchley,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.
December 12.

From Dr William K. Kay

Sir, Now that the Government has presented its case for the privatisation of the railways with such persuasiveness and intellectual rigour, and the policy shows every sign of being a great success, may I suggest the following new policies be placed in the Conservative manifesto for the forthcoming general election.

All the major road systems in Britain should be classified and sold off to separate parties. This would allow private money to be poured into our motorways and, despite any slight inconveniences which might occur as a result of our having to drive seamlessly from roads owned by one party to roads owned by another, the money raised by the resultant flotation could be used to the enormous benefit of allowing an extra halfpenny to be cut from the basic rate of taxation.

More daring, perhaps, would be the notion of selling our airspace to private companies. I would like to suggest that the Government considers dividing our airspace into layers 1,000 metres thick and about 50 miles wide. A complicated toll system, policed and controlled by modern technology, would ensure that all aircraft and racing pigeons paid the appropriate company its dues. We would all be immeasurably richer by this sale of fresh air.

Yours sincerely,
W. KAY,
7 Croft Way, Everton,
Nr Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Industrial prisons

From His Honour Judge Stephen Tumim

Sir, I am delighted to read (News in brief, December 9) that a Home Office minister has said in the House of Commons that prisoners should be given proper work in prison and paid wages to help to stop their families being a burden on the State; and that higher-paid prisoners could pay income tax. This is a policy which as Chief Inspector of Prisons I urged on the Government for some years.

Prisoners would acquire skills and self-respect from the practice of work and be less likely to commit crime. This is the first acknowledgment by a minister of the potential value of the policy. I hope it is to be adopted and the industrial prison made a reality.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN TUMIM,
The Garrick Club,
Garrick Street, WC2.
December 9.

Likeness in stone

From the Dean of Ely

Sir, Your leader of December 11, drawing attention in general to overseas funding for our national heritage and in particular to John Paul Getty II's preservation of "the unspoilt view of Ely Cathedral sailing above the Fens", was most welcome.

In the case of cathedrals philanthropy transcends not only national frontiers but also frontiers of faith. Since 1988 Ely Cathedral has raised over £7 million in voluntary gifts for our current restoration. One substantial gift came from an Arab racehorse-owner in Newmarket.

So that we can celebrate the millennium by completing our restoration we have invented a new verb. To be "corbelised" ensures that benefactors not only preserve the heritage but also preserve their own likeness for posterity in stone. We hope that major philanthropists will be queueing to take advantage of this facility.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. HIGGINS,
The Deanery,
The College, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

What shepherds watch

From Mr Andrew Griffith

Sir, Your leader today ("Silence of the lambs") neatly underlines the growing differences between town and country by referring to "herds of sheep".

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW GRIFFITH,
Allnutt's Farm,
Henton, Chinnor, Oxford.
December 1.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 12: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Sir Brian McGrath was received by Her Majesty upon relinquishing his appointment as Treasurer to The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

By Command of The Queen, the Lord Lucas of Crudwell (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Arrival of The President of Ukraine and Mrs Kuchma and welcomed His Excellency and Mrs Kuchma on behalf of Her Majesty.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 12: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum, this morning held a Meeting and Reception for international members and guests of the Forum at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, this afternoon presented diplomas to students of the Institute at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales received the Chief of the General Staff (General Sir Charles Guthrie).

His Royal Highness later opened the new combined offices of The Prince's Trust, The Prince's Youth Business Trust and The Prince's Trust Volunteers at Park Square East, London NW1.

The Prince of Wales this evening attended the Government Biodiversity Seminar Dinner and made the principal speech at Lancaster House, London SW1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 12: The Princess of Wales this evening arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from New York.

Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 12: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this evening attended 'Joy to the World 1995' at the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 12: The Duke of Kent, Grand Master, the United Grand Lodge of England, this evening attended a reception and dinner, at the Masonic Hall, Braintree, Essex.

The Duchess of Kent this afternoon presented the 'Children of Courage' Awards, at Westminster Abbey, London SW1.

Mrs Richard Beckett was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK.
December 12: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon visited St Christopher's Hospice, 51-59 Lawrie Park Road, Sydenham, London SE 26.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, as President of Business in the Community, will visit the Bromley-by-Bow Centre, London E3, at 10.20; will visit St James's Hall, Packington Street, N1, at 11.45; and will be the host at the tenth anniversary celebrations of the Community Enterprise awards at St James's Palace at 1.05; as President of The Prince's Youth Business Trust, he will open the new trust shop in the King's Walk Shopping Centre, the King's Road, SW3, at 3.10.

Later he will be the host at a reception for the Bristol Cancer Help Centre at St James's Palace at 6.00; and will attend the Urban Village Forum Christmas meeting at Leighton House, Holland Park, W14, at 7.30.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Animal Health Trust, will attend The Princess Royal's Industry Committee Air Studios evening at Air Studios (Chrysalis), Lyndhurst Hall, Lyndhurst Road, Hampstead, NW3, at 7.20.

Princess Margaret will attend a carol concert in aid of Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, at 6.50.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron of the Westminster Society, will attend a reception at Westminster City Hall at 6.30.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the Leukaemia Research Fund, will visit the Cellular Development Unit, UMIST, Manchester, at 10.55; will visit the Manchester Luncheon Club at Manchester Town Hall at 12.25; will visit Trinity Bridge, Manchester City Centre/Salford, at 2.05; and will open the One-Stop Resource Centre for the Disabled at Stephenson Street, Sale, Trafford, at 2.55.

Birthdays today

The Aga Khan, 59; Sir Terence Beckett, former Director-General, CBI, 72; Sir Ross Belch, chairman, Altnacraig Shipping, 75; Mr Howard Brenton, playwright, 53; General Arnold Brown, former international leader and general, Salvation Army, 82; Lord Bullock, 81; Sir Brian Fall, diplomat, 58; Mr John Francome, racing commentator and former jockey, 43; Mr Walter Girven, Chief Constable, Wiltshire, 57; Mr Chris Gorringe, chief executive, All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Wimbledon, 50; Miss Anouska Hempel (Lady Weinberg), hotelier and designer, 54; Dr Douglas Latto, chairman, British Safety Council, 82; Mr Robert Lindsay, actor, 46; Professor Sir William McCrea, astronomer, 91; Mr Alec Monk, former chairman, The Gateway Corporation, 53; Mr J.W.H. Morgan, former chairman, AMEC, 68; Mr Tony O'Brien, chief executive officer, Family Planning Association, 33; Sir Brian Pitman, banker, 64; Mr Christopher Plummer, actor, 66; Sir Humphrey Prideaux, former chairman, Morland and Company, 80; Sir Robin Renwick, diplomat, 58; Mr George Shultz, former American Secretary of State, 75; Professor G.D. Sims, former Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield University, 69; Mr Bruce Steinberg, chief executive officer, UK Gold Television, 39; Major-General Sir David Thorne, 62; Sir Laurens van der Post, writer, explorer and conservationist, 89; General Sir Peter Whiteley, 75; Mr Brian Wilson, MP, 47.

Appointment

Mr Shamoon Somjee to be a Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate with effect from December 11.


ANDRÉ CAMARA

Dave Hitchcock of Bridport, dressed in pantomime gear as Cinderella's father, checks exhibits on his stand

Pantomime stars sparkle at flower show

BY ALAN TOOGOOD
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

POINSETTIAS are providing much of the colour at the Royal Horticultural Society's Christmas show which opened yesterday at Westminster.

Red is still the favourite colour of this top Christmas pot plant, as found in such cultivars as "Red Sails" and the very dark "Freedom". But other colours are becoming more popular such as cream "Regina" and cream and pink "Marbella". All are being shown by Potash Nursery, of Bacton, Suffolk, which is also featuring cyclamen, inluding the new "Gradation Pink" whose flowers grade from deep to light pink. D'Arcy & Everest, of Somersham, Cambridgeshire, are showng 16 cultivars of poinsettia. "Noble Star" is a very distinctive colour — rich salmon. Also different are "Maren" in rich pink and "Dark Puebla", marbled cream and pink. There are some very dark reds, including "Spotlight".

Christmas cacti are also popular pot plants at this time of year and the collection staged by Westfield Cacti, of Kennford, Devon, is certainly attracting considerable attention, especially the cultivars with flowers in unusual colours, such as yellow "Thor Alex" and orange "Thor Vida", which make a refreshing change from the usual neon pink.

Among the gold medal winners is Jekka's Herb Farm, of Alveston, Bristol, which has created a roof herb garden, complete with antique-tiled roof. Other gold medallists are Burncoose Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall, showing a collection of evergreen foliage trees and shrubs, including the new ground-cover shrub *Euonymus fortunei* "Blondy" whose dark green leaves are splashed creamy yellow in the centre; Lincluden Nursery, of Bisley, Surrey, showing conifers; and The Hop Shop, of Shoreham, Kent, which has an exhibit of dried flower arrangements.

This festive and lighthearted show, with exhibitors dressed up as pantomime characters, is in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, and is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Dr K.A. Hallidie Smith

A thanksgiving service in celebration of the life of Dr Katherine Ann Hallidie Smith, honorary consultant paediatric cardiologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children and formerly consultant paediatric cardiologist at The Hammersmith Hospital, will be held at the Church of St George The Martyr, Queen Square, London WC1, at 2.30pm on Thursday, January 18, 1996. All are welcome.

Church news

Dean of Winchester
The Venerable Michael Till, Archdeacon of Canterbury and Canon Residentiary of Canterbury Cathedral, has been appointed Dean of Winchester to succeed the Very Rev Trevor Beeson who retires at the end of February 1996.

Eton College

Eton College closes today.

In the final of the House Association Dr T.C. Basey's defeated Mr R.D.N. Topham's by four goals to nil.

School opens for the Lent Half on Wednesday, January 10.

Memorial service

Sir Andrew Maitland-Makgill-Crichton
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Andrew Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, a former director of The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and a former vice-chairman of the PLA, was held yesterday at St Botolph-without-Aldgate. The Rev Brian J. Lee officiated. The Rev Alexander Cairns led the prayers.

Major-General Edward Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, brother, read the lesson and Major David Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, nephew, read from Sir Winston Churchill's *Thoughts and Adventures*. Lord Sterling of Plaistow, Chairman of The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, gave an address. Canon Bill Christianson, Missions to Seamen, pronounced the blessing. Among others present were:

Mrs Edward Maitland-Makgill-Crichton (sister-in-law), Mrs David Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, Mr David Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, Edward Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, William Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, the Hon Mrs Hildyard, Mr and Mrs Nicholas Hildyard, the Hon Edward and Mrs Morris, Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon Mrs D H F Farrell, Mr James Farrell.

Sir Bruce MacPhail (managing director, The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company) with Mr T C Harris (assistant managing director), Sir Peter Cazalet, Sir Eric and Lady Drake, and Mr and Mrs F I Geddes; Mr H T Beazley (P & O Containers) with Mr Alan Bott, Mr Michael Denchfield and Mr Christopher Rankin; Sir John Swire, Sir Adrian Swire, Sir Kerry St Johnston, Mr and Mrs R B Adams, Mr George Baker, Mr Bruce Farthing, Mr Peter Grant, Mr Kenneth Harrison, Mr Oliver Jessell and Mr Peter Wise with many other friends and past and present colleagues.

Luncheon

Royal Society of St George
Brigadier R.B. MacGregor-Oakford was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the City of Westminster branch of the Royal Society of St George held yesterday at The Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea. Mr Robert M. Sewell, chairman, presided. Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall, president, also spoke.

Dinner

ICSA
Lord Prior, Chancellor of Anglia Polytechnic University, was the guest speaker at the annual dinner of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators held last night at Guildhall. Mr Stephen Bennett, president, was in the chair. Mr Tim Melville Ross, Director General of the Institute of Directors, also spoke.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Drummond of Hawthornden, poet, Hawthornden, Lothian, 1585; Ernst von Siemens, electrical engineer, Lenthe, Germany, 1816; Balthazar Vorster, Prime Minister of South Africa 1966-78 and President 1978-79, Jamestown, 1915.

DEATHS: Maimonides, philosopher, Egypt, 1204; Donatello, sculptor, Florence, 1466; Samuel Johnson, writer, critic and lexicographer, London, 1784; Wassily Kandinsky, painter, Neuilly-sur-Seine, 1944; Robert John Strutt, 4th Baron Rayleigh, physicist, Terling Place, Essex, 1947.

Abel Tasman discovered New Zealand, 1642.

The Confederate forces under Robert E. Lee were victorious at the Battle of Fredericksburg, 1862.

Latest wills

Rear Admiral John Charles Warsop, of Old Portsmouth, Hampshire, former naval engineer and Flag Officer Portsmouth 1983-85, left estate valued at £68,472 net.

He left £200 to the Society of Friends of the Royal Naval Museum and *HMS Victory*.

Frances Mabel Bolton, of London N2, left estate valued at £921,640, gross, net same. She died intestate.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.D. Donald
and Miss M. Fujibuchi
The engagement is announced between Colin, elder son of Mr and Mrs Colin Donald, of Stirling, and Mami, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ishio Fujibuchi, of Fukuoka, Japan.

Mr S.K. Harries
and Miss E. Richardson
The engagement is announced between Stewart, elder son of Mr and Mrs Brian Harries, of Cheam, Surrey, and Emma, eldest daughter of the Bishop of Bedford and Mrs Richardson.

Mr E.J. Maddock
and Miss P. Richardson
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Maddock, of Crackley Bank, Shropshire, and Pippa, youngest daughter of the Bishop of Bedford and Mrs Richardson.

Mr R.C.T. Higginbotham
and Miss P. Beasley
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs J. Higginbotham, of Leicester, and Penny, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Beasley, of Bolton.

Mr M.C. Justesen
and Miss G.L. Whitehouse
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs P.J. Justesen, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Gabrielle, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.H. Whitehouse, of Ewell, Surrey.

Mr M.B. Lebus
and Miss S-J. White
The engagement is announced between Mark Benjamin, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Lebus, of Shere, Surrey, and Sarah-Jane, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs William White, of Stoke Abbott, Dorset.

Mr R.D. Youngman
and Miss V.M. Gillespie
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Youngman, of Fawley, Buckinghamshire, and Vanessa, third daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Gillespie, of Montreal, Canada.

Mr R.T. Lee
and the Hon Juliet A.C. Harvey
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Professor and Mrs T.A. Lee, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama formerly of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Juliet, elder daughter of Lord Harvey of Tasburgh and the late Lady Harvey of Tasburgh, of Restronguet, Cornwall.

Mr G.H. Maitland-Jones
and Miss S.E.H. Broadbent
The engagement is announced between Geoffrey, elder son of Mr J.H.C. Maitland-Jones and the late Mrs J.A. Maitland-Jones, of Holyport, Berkshire, and Sarah, daughter of the late Dr D.S. Broadbent, of Warrington, Cheshire, and Mrs S.E.J. Broadbent, now of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr J.M. Wishart
and Miss E. Hewitt Booth
The engagement is announced between James Macdonald, only son of Mr William Wishart and the late Mrs Grace Wishart, of Leeds, West Yorkshire, and Elaine, youngest daughter of the late Geoffrey Booth and of Mrs Muriel Booth, of Killamarsh, Derbyshire.

Marriage

Mr S.L. Levy
and Miss C.A.L. Suckling
The marriage took place on Saturday in Chelsea Old Church, of Mr Simon Levy, son of the late Mr Leonard Levy and of Mrs Levy, to Miss Clare Suckling, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Suckling. The Rev Dr Peter Elvy officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Charlotte Suckling and Guy Kemball-Williams. Mr Max Royde was best man.

A reception was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Church news

Appointments
The Venerable Michael Fox, Archdeacon of Harlow, is to be Archdeacon of West Ham, diocese of Chelmsford, succeeding the Venerable Tim Stevens, now Suffragan Bishop of Dunwich, diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

The Right Rev Donald Snelgrove, former Bishop of Hull: to be an Honorary Assistant Bishop of Lincoln (Lincoln).

The Rev Robert Clack, Assistant Curate, St Peter, Bury: to be Team Vicar, parish of New Bury (St James) (Manchester).

The Rev Vilda Steady, now Assistant Chaplain, Eastbourne District Hospital (Chichester).

The Rev Keith Swaby, Team Vicar, Haywards Heath: to be Curate, Clayton w Keymer (Chichester).

The Rev Canon John Tomlinson, Rector, the Team Ministry of Buxton w Burbage and King Sterndale, Rural Dean of Buxton and an Honorary Canon of Derby Cathedral: to be Rector, Matlock St Giles (Derby).

The Rev Robin Tree, Curate (NSM), St Leonards-on-Sea Christ Church and St Mary Magdalen: to be Curate (NSM), Hastings Holy Trinity (Chichester).

The Rev Nigel Tuck, Team Vicar, Dunston: to be Curate, Aldwick (Chichester).

The Rev Geoffrey Vevers, Vicar, St Stephen, Wandsworth: to be also Vicar, St Saviour and St George w St Andrew, Battersea, and Priest-in-charge, All Saints, Battersea Park (Southwark).

Resignations and retirements
The Rev Patrick Henderson, Vicar, St John Whetstone (London): resigned November 3.

The Rev Stanley Rycroft, Vicar, Silksworth (Durham): retired October 31.

The Rev Paul Wood, Team Vicar, Ifield (Chichester): resigned November 5.

The Rev Iain Young, Vicar, St Peter Le Poer, Friern Barnet (London): to resign December 31.

Church of Scotland

Ordinations and inductions
The Rev Alistair McKillop to Arbuthnott with Bervie.

The Rev Anthony P. Thornthwaite to Viewforth, Edinburgh.

The Rev Sheila Mitchell to Lesmahagow Old.

Translations
The Rev Melville Crosthwaite from Carstairs with Carstairs Junction to Larbert East.

The Rev Gavin J. Elliott from South Uist to Biggar.

The Rev Alexander H. Green from South Carntyne, Glasgow, to Strathblane.

The Rev Neil MacKinnon from Tiree to Longside.

Retirements
The Rev Walter G. Beattie from Old and Abbey, Arbroath.

The Rev John E. Hawdon from Clepington, Dundee.

The Rev Alexander C. McCartney from Caputh and Clunie with Kinclaven.

The Rev James E. Powrie from Chalmers Ardler, Dundee.

The Rev Clifford Strong from Creich Flisk and Kilmany with Monimail.

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 9313
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The Lord's gaze is upon mankind, his searching eye tests them. The Lord weighs just and unjust, and he hates all who love violence.
Psalm 11 : 4, 5 (REB)

BIRTHS

da RIENZO - On November 9th, to Catharine (née Everett-Heath) and Antonio, a daughter, Maria Chiara.

GREGORY - On 2nd December 1995, to Jane (née McNeill) and Clive, a daughter, Phoebe Mary Petronella.

MANVILLE-HALES - On December 10th and December 11th, to Mary (née MacFarlane) and Dorian, twin sons.

MAYES - On December 8th 1995, to Laura (née Buchanan) and James, a son, Hugo Charles.

OGILVY WATSON - On Tuesday December 5th 1995, to Oonagh (née McCormack) and Robert, a daughter, Roxanne, a sister for Michael.

PARKER - On December 6th 1995, to Helen and William, a daughter, Emily Helen.

PATON - On 8th December 1995 at The Portland Hospital, to James and Melanie, a son, Liam.

SCOTT - On 28th November 1995 at The Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath, to Elisabeth (née Wild) and Jonathan, a son, Nicholas James Alexander.

DEATHS

BAILY - On December 10th, at Allendale Rectory, The Reverend Rodney Alexander Baily LLB, Rector of Allendale, aged 56. Brother of Daniel, second son of the late Lt Col Richard Baily RTR and the late Mrs Joan Baily (née Alexander) and beloved stepson of Mrs E.R. (Rose) Baily of Swardhams, Norfolk. Funeral Eucharist at the Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Allendale Town, at 11 am on Tuesday 19th December. Flowers, or donations to preferred charity, to E. Walton, Funeral Directors, 11 North Terrace, Hexham NE46 1NU.

BLOCKEY - Robin at Tiroran, Isle of Mull, on December 11th after a short illness courageously fought, aged 62. Dearest husband of Sue and much loved father of Caroline, Charles and Fae and a treasured grandfather. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to The Mull District Nursing Services c/o The Clydesdale Bank, Tobermory.

BOMER - On December 8th 1995, at Sutton Manor Nursing Home, Frederick Melton aged 88 years. Much loved father, father-in-law and grandfather. Funeral Service at Barham Crematorium, Kent, on Monday December 18th 1995 at 2 pm.

BRAMER - On December 9th, Muriel wife of Kenneth, mother of Eve and grandmother of Sophie and Claire.

CALIENDI - Phyllis Evelyn (née Best). Dearly loved wife of Charles and mother of Linda. Peacefully at home after a short illness on Sunday 10th December 1995. Funeral will be held at Marychurch and St Thomas More R.C. Church, Old Hatfield, Herts, at 2.15 pm on Tuesday 19th December 1995. Flowers, or donations to Macmillan Nurses may be sent to J.J. Burgess and Sons, Alfred House, The Common, Hatfield (01707 262122).

CLOVER - On December 11th 1995 peacefully at home Cecilia Mary Hyslop (Cecily) in her 102nd year. Dearly loved by all her family of all four generations. Cremation private please. No letters or flowers at her own request. Donations if desired to Marie Curie Foundation c/o Cyril H Lovegrove Funeral Directors, 80 Briants Avenue, Caversham, Reading RG4 5BA.

COULTER - Michael on December 12th peacefully at home with his family. Beloved husband of Judy and much loved and respected father of Adam and Matthew. Funeral Service at Christ Church, Waterden Road, Guildford, at 12 noon on Tuesday December 19th followed by private cremation. No flowers please but donations if desired to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

CROXTON - William King died peacefully at home in Johannesburg on December 11th. Beloved husband of Teckie and dearly loved father of Tupsie and Vicky.

DALGLEISH - On December 7th 1995, peacefully in Hospital, Joan aged 89 years. Beloved mother of Sarah and grandmother of Justin and Zeno. Funeral service at Westleton Parish Church, Suffolk on Friday December 15th at 12.30 pm. Followed by private cremation. Family flowers only donations if desired made payable to British Heart Foundation c/o Tony Browns Funeral Service, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1DJ.

DOUGLAS - Ethel May. Formerly a Staff Member of The Girls High School, Salisbury, Rhodesia and of The St Anne's Diocesan College, Pietermaritzburg, Natal. Died peacefully on 7th December 1995 at Crawley Hospital. Funeral Service at Whittington College, Felbridge, East Grinstead, on Monday 18th December at 3pm.

DUFFY - On December 8th suddenly at her home, Marjorie aged 87 years, of Malvern. Mother of Peter and grandmother of Isabel and Miranda. Funeral Service at Christchurch, Malvern, on Tuesday December 19th at 12 noon, followed by cremation. Family flowers only but if desired donations to the Great Ormond Street Childrens Hospital c/o Hollands Funeral Services, 71 Barnards Green Road, Malvern.

EDWARDS - Colonel Ivor, C. Edwards CVO, OBE,TD, (TED) of Brecon Powys. Husband of the late Lyn. Died peacefully at the Severn Bridge Nursing Home, sharpness, Gloucestershire on Friday 8th December 1995. Funeral Service at Brecon Cathedral on Friday 15th Dec 1995 at 1pm. Family flowers, donations in lieu of flowers to The Royal British Legion c/o Peter Evans Funeral Director, Brookfield Groesffford Brecon Powys Tel: 01874 665 608.

EUSTACE - Ba (née Belloc 20/1/30) swiftly in London 11th December. Requiem Westminster Cathedral Crypt, Monday 18th December 3 pm. No flowers.

FENTON - Harold Arthur, Air Commodore C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C. Commanding officer of 238 Squadron during the Battle of Britain, much loved husband of Heller, died peacefully at home in Jersey in his 87th year on Monday 11th December, 1995. Will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. All enquiries please to H.W. Maillard & Son Ltd., Funeral Directors, tel: 01534 37291.

FINLAY - Ian Finlay C.B.E. On 10th December 1995 in Edinburgh, aged 89 years. Author, formerly Director of The Royal Scottish Museum and Honorary Professor of Antiquities to The Royal Scottish Academy. Much loved and loving husband of Mary, father of Anthony, Peter and Veronica, grandfather and great-grandfather. A service will be held in the Pentland Chapel at Mortonhall Crematorium Edinburgh on Saturday 16th December at 10.15 am. Any enquiries to W.T. Dunbar & Sons, tel: (0131) 229-4284.

HAYNES - On December 10th at The Vicarage, Lindley, Huddersfield, Marion Elizabeth aged 61 years, treasured wife of Michael and a dear mother to Alison and Vivien, mother-in-law to Ian and Jonathan and a dear gran to William and George. Requiem Mass takes place at All Saints Church, Savile Road, Elland, on Friday December 15th at 1 pm, to be followed by a private cremation. No flowers please but donations in lieu if desired to Lindley Parish Church Building Fund c/o Mr Conrad Willoughby, 8 Edgerton Grove, Edgerton, Huddersfield.

HICKS - Marven aged 85, after a short illness on December 9th, Husband of Eryl, father of Susan and Joanna. Cremation at Amersham 14th December at 9.30 am. No flowers. Donations if wished to RSPCA.

HORROCKS - John David on December 10th aged 70, at home after an illness bravely borne. Beloved husband of Anne, much loved father, brother, uncle and grandfather. Funeral Service at the Holy Trinity Church, Cookham, on 18th December at 11 am. Family flowers. Donations if desired for a cancer charity of your choice or The Ian Rennie Hospice at Home. All enquiries to Pymm & Hooper Funeral Directors, 65/67 Moorbridge Road, Maidenhead, Berks, tel: (01628) 23822.

JAMES - On December 10th 1995, peacefully after a short spell in hospital, Keith aged 61. Most dearly loved and brave husband of Jan and father of Stuart and Roger. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Barkhamsted on Thursday 19th December at 11 am followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to The Cancer Research Campaign.

JAY - On 12th December 1995, Thomas Haywood of Dernsale, Hereford. Aged 87. Formerly of Chichester. Husband of Alix, father of Thomas and James. Funeral on Monday 18th December at 2 pm at St Lawrence Church, Canon Pyon. Family flowers only. Donations to the Herefordshire Historic Churches Trust.

KIMBER - On 8th December 1995 at home suddenly, Gwendoline Margaret Maude (Gwen). Dearly loved wife of Derek and much loved mother of Simon, Jeremy, Elizabeth and Jane. Greatly loved by all her grandchildren and family. Funeral at St Jude's Church, Englefield Green, 11 am on Friday 15th December. Enquiries to F. Harrison & Son (01784) 432163.

KNIGHT - Robert Knight F.C.I.S., peacefully on December 10th 1995 aged 84, formerly Vice-Chairman of The Bowater Paper Corporation and Past President of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. Much loved husband of Mary, loving father of Peter and Gillian and devoted grandfather. Funeral Service at Emmanuel Church, Normanton Road, South Croydon, at 11.30 am on Monday December 18th. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for The Stroke Association should be sent to J.B. Shakespeare Ltd., 67 George Street, Croydon, tel: (0181) 688-1447.

LASCELLES - Mary Madge, poet and scholar, died peacefully on Sunday December 10th 1995. Funeral Service at St Margaret's Church, Cley-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, on Friday December 15th at 2pm.

LEWIS - Surgeon Captain R.N. (retired) Bernard Sutton D.S.C., C.B.E., O.St.J., (Ben), aged 86, peacefully at Plaxtol Nursing Home. Loved husband of Mary (Mollie). Father of Adam, Roger, Gabrielle and Mark and much loved Grandfather. Funeral at Plaxtol Church at 2 pm on Thursday 21st December 1995.

MAKIN - Iris Willoughby Cheshyre. Beloved and much admired sister of Geoffrey, aunt and great-aunt, died as she always hoped at her home in Tunbridge Wells on December 10th 1995 aged 80 years. Funeral on Thursday 21st December at 2 pm at the Church of King Charles the Martyr, Tunbridge Wells, followed by cremation. Flowers or donations to Church of King Charles the Martyr, may be sent to E.R. Hickmott, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, tel: (01892) 822462.

MARSHALL - David Saul, first Chief Minister of Singapore, died at home in Singapore on Tuesday 12th December aged 87 years.

NANCARROW - Joan, aged 88, very peacefully at Horsell Lodge Residential Care Home on December 11th. Widow of Richard and much loved by her daughter Jill, and John, and Grandsons Nick and Mark. Funeral at St Mary's, Horsell at 12.45 pm on Tuesday 19th December. All enquiries to: (01483) 772266.

NEWTON - Alexander John peacefully on December 8th 1995. Beloved husband of the late Constance and dearest father of Joseph, James, Francis, Peter and Mary. Requiem Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Leigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, on Tuesday 19th December 1995 at 12.30 pm. Enquiries to Dwyer & Sons, 79-83, Leigh Hill, Leigh-on-Sea, (01702) 76323.

NORMAN - On December 9th peacefully at Staggenhoe Nursing Home, Hitchin, Herts, Valerie beloved wife of Peter, mother of Sarah, Libby and Nick. Cremation on Thursday December 14th at 3.45pm at West Suffolk Crematorium. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, may be sent to Staggenhoe Nursing Home c/o L. Fulcher, 88 Ipswich Street, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1AD.

PAIN - Lt-Cmdr Gerard Faulkner. *Tragically as a result of a car accident on* Friday December 8th aged 78. Dearly loved father of Alexandra and brother of Douglas. Funeral Service at St John the Baptist Church, Treswell, nr. Retford, on Friday 15th December at 11am, followed by committal at Lincoln Crematorium. Family flowers only but donations if wished to King George's Fund for Sailors c/o E. Horton & Son, 73 Grove Street, Retford.

PARGALOS - Antonios, on December 10th. Marine Consulting Engineer. Loved and loving husband of Katina and father of Pandelis, Lucas, Philip and Stamos; father-in-law of Anna and Nina; grandfather of Vivienne, Helena and Katherine. Funeral Service to be held today, 1.30 pm at St Sofia Cathedral, Moscow Road, London.

PONSONBY - On 11th December peacefully at home, Robert Martin Dominic, aged 84 years. Dearly loved husband of the late Jane. Requiem Mass at the Brompton Oratory on Friday, December 15th at 11am followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please, but donations in memory of Bob to 'Friends of the London Oratory'.

POOL - On 8th December 1995, peacefully at home, Patricia, aged 86, dearly loved wife of Kenneth, loving and much loved mother of Tony, Tim and Jacqueline and devoted grandmother. Requiem Mass on Friday, 15th December at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Mayfield Lane, Wadhurst at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, please.

ROBINSON - Seymour FDS, on 11th December aged 89, formerly consultant dental surgeon at Westminster Children's Hospital. Husband of the late Mavis and dearly loved father of Susan Burton, Caroline Knapp and Kenneth. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Friday 15th December at 1 p.m. No flowers but donations if desired for the Mavis Robinson Award Fund for young people, (payable to Kingston Liberal Synagogue of Rushett Road, Long Ditton, Surrey KT7 0UD).

ROSE - Professor Gillian, of Warwick University, passed away in hospital on Saturday, December 9th 1995. Loved and missed by her father, mother and family. Funeral Service on Friday December 15th, 1.30pm, at the Cathedral Church of St Michael, Coventry. Burial to take place on Monday 18th December, 11.30am at Hampstead Cemetery Chapel, Fortune Green Road, Hampstead, London. Flowers and enquiries to Grimmett and Timms Funeral Directors, 118 Albany Road, Coventry CV5 6NG, tel: (01203) 674746.

SHEPHERD - Stella Mary Veronica, suddenly in Chester on December 7th 1995, dearly loved wife of Frank and mother of Anne, Clare, Michael and Christopher. A vivacious and loving wife, sadly missed. Funeral Service at St Mary's Handbridge, Chester at 10.45 am on Friday 15th December. Family flowers only. Donations instead to Handbridge Day Centre or Contact Centre Chester c/o Co-operative Funeral Service, 12 Lower Bridge Street, Chester, tel: (01244) 325970.

SHERRINGTON - On December 10th, Mary Esther, aged 82. Youngest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs David Dudley Cox of Kingswinford, Worcs. Most dearly loved and loving wife of the late Eric, treasured and most deeply loved mother of David and Angela, dear gran of Debs and Max and great-grandma of Siobhan. Funeral at the Lady Chapel, Chichester Cathedral, Monday December 18th at 10.15 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if so desired, to Chichester Cathedral.

STREATFIELD - On 9th December 1995, peacefully, Mary aged 93 years of Groombridge. Widow of Stewart and much loved aunt and great-aunt. Funeral at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Tuesday, 19th December at 2 pm. No flowers please.

SYMONS - Ralph Prust in Wellington on 25th November. Grandfather of Jan. Loved and missed.

TOWLSON - Peacefully in her sleep. On Sunday 10th December 1995, in her 94th year, Alice Muriel Towlson. Much loved mother of Barbara (Mosse) and Christopher; and a devoted Grandmother and Great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Chichester Crematorium on Monday 18th December at 11.30 am. Flowers and all enquiries to Kevin Holland Funeral Service, 246 Chichester Road, Bognor Regis, tel: (01243) 868630.

TURNBULL - On December 11th 1995, Harold Theodore, beloved husband of Stella and dear father of Andrew, Nigel and Diana. Much loved by all his grandchildren. Service at The Parish Church of All Saints Thurlestone at 2.30pm on Friday December 15th. Family flowers only, but donations if so desired to RAF Benevolent Fund c/o J.D. Andrews & Son, 119 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, South Devon.

VOSS - Peacefully in hospital on 12th December, Marguerida aged 93 years. A dear and loving friend to all who knew her. Funeral on Monday 18th December at Golders Green Crematorium at 2.15 pm. No flowers but donations if desired to Royal National Lifeboat Institution, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HZ.

WARE - Barbara, on December 11th 1995, peacefully after a short illness, aged 90, Widow of Robert Remington Ware. Much loved mother of Jeremy and William, beloved grandmother of Julian, Henry and Maylin and great-grandmother. Funeral at St John the Baptist Church, South Collingham, on Friday December 15th at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to South Collingham Church c/o David Tingle Funeral Director, 18 Oaklands, Collingham, Newark.

WILLMOTT DOBBIE - On December 9th peacefully at home, Beatrice Marion (Betty), F.R.C.S., beloved wife of Dr. Leslie Dobbie deceased, devoted and much loved aunt of Peter and great-aunt of Christopher and Sandy. Funeral Service St John the Baptist Church, Batheaston, on Friday December 15th at 11.30 am followed by private cremation. Enquiries to W.F. Dolman & Son, tel: (01225) 444110.

WITHERS - Rupert, on 11th December, aged 82, peacefully after a short illness. Beloved husband of the late Betty, much loved father of Giusie, Elizabeth and Caroline. Private cremation, a Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

WOOD - On 8th December at home, Alfred Arden aged 69 years. Beloved husband of Dorinda Rae (deceased) and cherished father of Jane and Adam. Funeral at Worcester Crematorium - 18th December at 11.30 am, and afterwards at home. No flowers please.

YOUNG - Elrene Foster, passed away peacefully on December 9th aged 87 years. She will be sadly missed by all members of her family and her many friends. Funeral Service at the Church of St Quiricus and St Julietta, Tickenham, Avon, on Friday December 15th at 3.30 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired for the Brooke Hospital for Animals may be sent to J.E. Dwyer & Sons, Funeral Directors, 82 Silver Street, Nailsea BS19 2DG, tel: (01275) 852507.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

BAKER - Olivia E.M. Cushing, born Exeter 13/12/1895, died Tiverton 29/11/1986. Remembering our much loved mother on the 100th anniversary of her birth. Hazel (Tiverton) and Mavis (Weymouth).

LEIGH - Sir John (Uncle Jack) died 13th December 1992. Remembered with love and affection. Cherie and Richard.

ROBSON - G.G. Dec. 6th glad we were part of your "bonus" years. Will miss and fondly remember you here in New Zealand. With love, Nicky, Roger, Molly, Harry.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

LAPSLEY - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Air Marshal Sir John Lapsley will be held on Tuesday 23rd January 1996 at 12 noon at St Clement Danes, Strand WC2.

FOR SALE

'CHIPPENDALE' table £150 set of 6 excellent chairs £1,800. Also other items 0171 286 4910

THE TIMES - 1791-1995 other titles available. Ready for presentation - also "Sundays". Remember When. 0181-688 6323.

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR HUGH CLEGG

Hugh Clegg, Professor of Industrial Relations at Warwick University, 1967-79, died on December 9 aged 75. He was born on May 22, 1920.



A PIONEER in the academic study of industrial relations, Hugh Clegg was also, for a dozen years before 1979, a dominant contributor to government wages policy. In the second sphere he is particularly remembered for his chairmanship of two bodies, the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal in 1968-71, and the Standing Commission on Pay Comparability (known as the Clegg Commission) in 1979-80; in both cases he was appointed by a Labour Government and given his marching orders (in the second case along with the whole commission, but only after its recommendations had been accepted) by a succeeding Conservative administration.

Clegg will also be remembered for the remarkable minority report he prepared as a member of the Donovan Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations, which sat from 1965 to 1968. His input was so influential that in the end it swung the whole thrust of the Donovan Commission's massive report away from the much-favoured notion of legal regulation in the direction of reform by agreement of the system of collective bargaining — much to the later chagrin of Barbara Castle when she came the following year to produce her famous White Paper *In Place of Strife*.

In the academic sphere, amid numerous contributions to the literature of labour relations, his *A History of British Trade Unions* (Vol I with A. Fox and A. F. Thompson, 1964; Vol II, 1985; Vol III, 1994) is pre-eminent in its field. As a scholar, Clegg was essentially pragmatic, a methodical accumulator of detail, and he made the generalisations of an historian rather than the conceptual leaps of a theoretician. He had a talent for deflating pomposities from either Left or Right — a quality which earned him the trust of many managers and most trade unionists — and was wholly without pretension in his own work.

Any tendency to the cautious and prosaic was balanced by a devastating clarity when he had made up his mind about the facts of a situation. A typical example, which brought him to early notice, was the little book he wrote with R. Adams about the shipbuilding and engineering dispute of 1957 — under the title *The Employers' Challenge*. As a lecturer he tended to plod, but he was an excellent tutor and an infinitely patient and amusing chairman.

Some of his best seminars were after hours over a pint of beer. When he eventually gave up table tennis for long walks, his total recall and uncompromising judgments took his guests' breath away almost as much as his brisk stride.

The son of a clergyman, Hugh Armstrong Clegg was educated as Kingswood School, Bath, and Magdalen College, Oxford, a career punctuated by five years in the Army during the Second World War. He once commented that the most important thing he learnt in the Army, and one that helped to illuminate his later work in industrial relations, was "the effective pattern of activity that officially did not exist". He was naturally attracted to the study of such large and relatively unrecorded bodies as trade unions.

He became a Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, in 1949, and a year later published *Labour Relations in London Transport*, which remains a highly readable account of the interplay of employment and politics. In 1964 there appeared the first volume of *A History of British Trade Unionism*, and in 1967 he was appointed first Professor of Industrial Relations at the new University of Warwick.

Between Nuffield and Warwick Clegg served a year as a full-time member of the Prices and Incomes Board, established by the Wilson Government, and a couple of years later was appointed chairman of the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal. In 1970, after the Conservatives returned to power, he was the trade union nominee on the inquiry into council workers' pay under Sir Jack Scamp, who settled the "dirty jobs strike" with an award that infuriated the Prime Minister, Edward Heath; he was accused by Harold Wilson of "government by vendetta" when he refused to re-appoint Clegg to the tribunal on the ground that he was not impartial.

Clegg was unperturbed, and with the return of the Labour Government served on the council of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service and was appointed chairman of the Standing Commission on Pay Comparability in the last days of the Labour Government, in 1979. It was in the course of his work on comparability that there occurred what was unfairly called "the Clegg mistake", when an error originating in the Civil Service led to excessive pay awards to teachers. The incident led to an investigation by Sir Alan Marre, who refused to apportion blame — at which Clegg commented: "No shop steward would get away with that one." The incoming Conservative Government of Margaret Thatcher, which had pledged itself during the election campaign to accept the awards, felt obliged to honour them, but ensured that the commission was abolished not long afterwards.

During his period out of official favour, Clegg had built up the SSRC research unit at Warwick. He gave up its direction in 1974, and in 1979 retired from his chair to give time particularly to complete the *History*, the second volume of which was published in 1985 and the third, finally, last year. *The System of Industrial Relations in Great Britain* (1970) was succeeded by *The Changing System* in 1979. Colleagues wedded to their preconceptions were, sometimes understandably, apt to consider his analyses over-flexible.

He married Mary Matilda Shaw in 1941 and is survived by her and their two sons and two daughters.

ARTHUR MULLARD

Arthur Mullard, comedian, died on December 11 aged 85. He was born on November 10, 1910.



ARTHUR MULLARD was the cockney answer to W. C. Fields, a big, bulky man who carried the bruised features of his trade as a former professional boxer. His moment of individual fame came in the mid-1970s when he starred in his own television show, *Yus, M'Dear*. But this came after thirty years of playing the straight man, or feed, to some of the best comics of his generation: Eric Sykes, Tony Hancock, Benny Hill, Frankie Howerd and Spike Milligan.

Many of their shows have been repeated recently, and in old age Mullard gained a kind of cult status with the young. Unlike other comedians of his generation, Mullard never tried to adopt a persona, or be anything other than himself. That honesty was what made him so popular.

In *Yus, M'Dear*, playing opposite Queenie Watts, Mullard proved that he was more than able to carry a show on his own back. He also starred in numerous films. His best was probably *Sparrows Can't Sing* (1962), the sparrows in question being Cockneys. The film was distributed in America, with the voices dubbed — transatlantic audiences being thought unable to decipher the raw East London accents.

Arthur Mullord — as he was originally known — was born and brought up in Peabody Buildings, Islington, where his parents and grandmother also lived. It was a poverty-stricken childhood, shared with four brothers, one of whom died in infancy. At the age of 14, Arthur left school with a report from his teacher which described him as "a born actor". He was pleased with the appraisal, but his father — a labourer — was much less so, and the youth was promptly found a job as a butcher's boy.

Before he was 18, Mullard had joined the Army, and was again put to work on the lowliest of cleaning jobs. He started to stand out, however, because of his height (he was 6ft 2in), weight and strength. Three years later, when he left the Army, he was his regiment's boxing champion, and when he returned to civilian life he decided to make boxing his profession. He was never a particularly great boxer, but he remained in the job just long enough to acquire a classic boxer's nose. Then, after worrying bouts of dizziness, he decided boxing was an unhealthy way to earn a living, and packed it in.

The 1930s saw Mullard working as a bouncer in dance halls, as a "Steptoe" with his uncle, collecting junk, and, most improbably, as an artist's model, posing for students in jock-strap and socks. During the war he was a sergeant in the Royal Artillery. He was not mechanically minded, and knew nothing about guns, but threw himself into the drilling of troops with all the gusto of a frustrated actor.

After the war he returned to his childhood ambition of acting in earnest. He found an agent who specialised in stuntmen, and joined the queues of other hopeful extras at the Pinewood and Ealing studios every day. He progressed to small parts in Ealing comedies, and it was then that he changed his name, Mullord giving rise to numerous jokes along the peer-of-the-realm line. It was the birth of commercial television in the mid-1950s, however, that really brought a sea-change in Mullard's fortunes, and established him as the best "heavy" in television comedy. He appeared with the young Tony Hancock on *Hancock's Half Hour* in the 1960s, and Spike Milligan regularly requested his services.

His own chance of stardom came in 1975 when he starred in *Romany Jones*, and in the more popular spin-off *Yus, M'Dear*, 1976, in which he played a henpecked gypsy whose family is a continuous source of irritation to his more conventional neighbours. Mullard had, by this time, spent thirty years in showbusiness, and was amused by his overnight propulsion to stardom at the age of 63.

His film credits included *Casino Royale*, *Love Among the Ruins* and *Confessions of a Plumber's Mate*. In 1978 he also had a brief career as a pop singer, when he teamed up with the comedienne Hylda Baker to make a cover version of *You're the One that I Want* — the song made famous by John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John in the film *Grease*. And there were numerous appearances on *Celebrity Squares*. He never stopped working, although mostly in later years on commercials. His autobiography, *Oh Yus, It's Arthur Mullard*, was published in 1977.

Mullard was a private man in real life, who preferred to stay, despite his wealth, in the small home in Islington which he had shared with his wife, Flo. She died in 1961, and he is survived by two sons and a daughter, another son having predeceased him.

SIR GODFREY AGNEW

Sir Godfrey Agnew, KCVO, CB, Clerk of the Privy Council, 1953-74, died on December 10 aged 82. He was born on October 11, 1913.



FOR 21 years Godfrey Agnew sat near to the heart of Britain's monarchical system as Clerk of the Privy Council, that quaint institution on whose advice the Sovereign exercises his or her statutory powers and royal prerogatives.

As governments came and went, as seals of office were received or returned by new and ex-ministers, or as freshly appointed Privy Counsellors looked forward to being addressed as "The Right Honourable . . .", it was Agnew who supervised the ancient process. He often had to brief the Queen on who they were.

He convened the Privy Council's monthly meetings "held when Parliament is sitting" and ensured that there was a quorum of three members — and preferably four. Such meetings can be held almost anywhere in the world. But wherever they were and whenever they took place, Agnew was there — to make the necessary arrangements well ahead of time. None knew the constitutional procedures better than he did.

His relationships with politicians waxed and waned, according to their respect for the Privy Council's mandate. Of the 12 Lords President of the Council (the appropriate Cabinet minister) with whom he had to deal during his stewardship, Richard Crossman proved the most difficult. Crossman, who called Agnew "a jackass" in his published *Diaries*, made it clear at their first encounter that he thought the procedure a "lot of mumbo-jumbo". He particularly objected to the fact that busy ministers were expected to attend the Queen wherever she might be.

Agnew once had to sort out a tricky situation at Balmoral. Crossman insisted on attending his Sovereign on a certain day despite a conflicting private engagement in the Queen's own diary. Crossman said that he and his fellow members of the Council would eat sandwiches in the servants' hall if necessary since it seemed that the Queen was unable to offer them lunch. The matter was resolved when the Queen finally agreed to amend her diary to accommodate the Lord President and his team — but they still ate only with the Household.

Agnew managed, however, to deflect Crossman's ambition of limiting the number of Privy Council meetings to one or two a year. The Lord President gave way when he realised that Agnew was prepared for a fight to the finish.

Born in Kent where he was educated at Tonbridge School, William Godfrey Agnew was admitted solicitor in 1936 and entered the Public Trustee's office in the same year. Full of ambition, he secured a transfer within the Civil Service to the Privy Council, only to be thwarted by the outbreak of war. He served in the Royal Artillery and then in the infantry, rising to the rank of major, but suffering a severe back injury caused by landing badly during a parachute training exercise.

On being demobilised, Agnew was at last able to attain his ambition by entering the Privy Council Office as senior clerk. He was promoted deputy clerk in 1951, succeeding as clerk two years later. It is in the clerk's office safe that is kept the gold instrument with which the Queen "pricks" the list of potential high sheriffs for Britain's counties. Agnew also served as deputy secretary in the Cabinet Office between 1972 and 1974 before retiring from the Civil Service.

Thereafter he devoted his time to developing his interests in industry and finance, as well as accepting a number of public appointments. He was chairman of Lady Clare, a family firm which made table mats, and was vice-chairman of the Sun Life Assurance Society, as well as holding a number of directorships and consultancies — including several within the University of Wales.

Agnew was married twice. His first wife Ruth, a granddaughter of Lord Denbigh and daughter of the racing manager to King George VI and the present Queen Mother, and by whom he had three sons and three daughters, died in 1962. He later married his second wife Nancy, the widow of Admiral St John Reginald Joseph Tyrwhitt, who provided him with two stepsons and a stepdaughter.

SIR FRANCIS BOYD

Sir Francis Boyd, political correspondent of *The Guardian*, 1945-72, died on December 10 aged 85. He was born on July 11, 1910.

ONE of the last survivors from the prewar Commons Press Gallery, Francis Boyd started work for the then *Manchester Guardian* at Westminster in 1937. He finally retired from the paper — of which latterly he was the column-writing political editor — in 1975.

Very much an old-style journalist, complete with immaculate shorthand, he caused some surprise when in 1976 he accepted a knighthood at the hands of Harold Wilson (along with his old friend Harry Boyne of *The Daily Telegraph*). It somehow seemed out of character for a man who had always appeared to despise social pretension and was never shy of emphasising his own earthy Yorkshire roots.

John Francis Boyd was born in Ilkley and was educated first at Ilkley Grammar School and then at Silcoates School near Wakefield. He did not go to university, something that always seemed to rankle. On one occasion, having been introduced to a junior colleague's wife, he established that she had been at Oxford at LMH; throughout the rest of the evening he insisted on addressing her as "Lady Margaret Hall". It did, though, give him great pleasure when in 1973 he was awarded an honorary LLD by Leeds University.

Boyd's war was spent as a warrant officer in the Royal Artillery — a rank which went with being secretary to a major-general. Although there were no glorious exploits in his military career, the fact that he had seen service (and, indeed, been a sergeant-major) gave him something in common — if on a slightly *de haut en bas* basis — with all the majors, colonels and brigadiers who in the 1940s and 1950s crowded the Tory benches in the Commons.

He was widely trusted even by the knights of the shires — in itself an achievement for someone working on an overtly anti-Conservative newspaper. Even in those days lobby correspondents tended to hunt in pairs and it was perhaps significant that Boyd's closest professional colleague should have been Ronald Butt (first of the *Financial Times* and then of *The Sunday Times* and *The Times*).



The Conservative politician he was closest to was R. A. Butler, of whom he wrote a perspicacious short biography in 1956; he also edited a volume of Harry Boardman's parliamentary sketches, *The Glory of Parliament* (1960) and produced a solid work entitled *British Politics in Transition* (1964).

Although not a great scoop merchant, he was the first journalist to reveal Macmillan's appointment of Lord Home as Foreign Secretary in July 1960 (information that may well have come to him from Butler, who was disappointed at not securing the office himself).

As a writing journalist Boyd was very much a plain cook — a marked contrast to Boardman with whom he swapped his Gallery job after the war — and his gifts were seldom seen to best advantage in the *Guardian* back-page column that he began writing as long ago as 1960. But he was a prodigiously hard worker. He would think nothing of "gutting" three government White Papers in a day, while carrying on with all his normal routine of buttonholing MPs in the lobby.

He came into his own at a party conference, where he organised young reporters with a firm but genial hand. He always, however, slightly resented the fact that in those days the annual Labour Party conference was the province of the paper's labour correspondent, and he had to take very much a back seat.

He tended to believe that he was underrated by the office and, when he was finally made a Scott trustee, it meant a great deal to him. He was a strong ally of Alastair Hetherington in his battle, with the support of the Scott Trust, to prevent the merging of the paper with *The Times* in 1966. But his relations with his Editor — who slightly unkindly dismissed him as "a cart horse" in his book *Guardian Years* (1981) — were otherwise always rather distant. Conscious of this, he was wary of anyone he saw as a potential rival, though he did establish a harmonious working relationship with his lobby colleague (and eventual successor) Ian Aitken.

Francis Boyd is survived by his wife Margaret, one son and two daughters.

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THE BELGIAN ROYAL VISIT
INTRUSION OF PRESS REPORTERS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—Now that the visit with which we have been honoured by his Majesty the King of the Belgians and by her Majesty Queen Elisabeth is ended I desire to record the conduct of certain members of the Press.

Though warned more than once that the visit was strictly private, two reporters, a man and a woman, entered the compartment reserved for their Majesties from King's Cross to Retford during the journey and were with some difficulty compelled to withdraw.

Another individual who later confessed himself to be English, persisted in speaking extremely bad French over the telephone to the bewilderment of the clerk who was on duty, but to the ridicule of every one else.

Two others, in order to obtain information, attended the morning service in the private chapel; and, when remonstrated with after the service was over for having done so, they replied, "Well, we have to live."

Another pair—perhaps they were the same—walked, very slowly, close to the windows of the dining room, which is on a level with the ground, while we were having luncheon. They then attempted to enter the house by another window.

ON THIS DAY

December 13, 1937

Although the King of the Belgians and his mother Queen Elisabeth were paying a private visit to the Duke of Portland at Welbeck Abbey, some newspaper reporters peered through the dining room windows while luncheon was being served and others turned up for morning service at the private chapel.

All this is in addition to constant calls over the telephone, a shower of telegrams and persistent demands for personal interviews.

To what depths have certain members of the Press descended. And this in the face of, and to the knowledge of, distinguished foreign representatives.

Yours faithfully
PORTLAND
Welbeck Abbey, Worksop, Notts, Dec. 10.

CHEETAH VERSUS GREYHOUND

Cheetahs raced on the greyhound track at Romford Stadium, Essex, on Saturday night. As described by Mr. K.C. Gandar Dower in *The Times* on Saturday, a dozen cheetahs were brought to England from Africa a year ago, and soon adapted themselves to the changed climatic conditions. They were tried out on tracks and soon took to racing.

The programme on Saturday included three races in which the cheetahs took part. In the first Helen, which has broken the track record in trials, met two dogs. In the second James and Gussie met each other over hurdles, and in the third, Lewis attacked the 355 yards' record. The cheetahs had been at Romford for a week but because of the heavy state of the track they have not been able to practise.

Helen was taken in a special cage to the starting-point of the first race. She had a flying start and was nearly 50 yards ahead before the dogs left their traps. She rapidly increased the lead, seeming to bound over the ground with effortless ease. She covered the 365 yards in 15.86 secs, compared with the dog record of 16.01 sec.

Before the second race the announcer warned the spectators that if one of the cheetahs got ahead the other might give up the race and that is what happened. Gussie got ahead, and James stopped half way round the track and refused to finish the course. Gussie's time was 16.98 sec.

In the last race Lewis failed to break the record for 355 yards. He went round the track in 23.10secs. Helen had previously done this distance in 19.8 sec on a dry track. The record for a dog over the distance is 20.75sec.

European Law Report

Luxembourg

Principles relating to establishment of professional services in EU

Gebhard v Consiglio dell'Ordine degli Avvocati e Procuratori di Milano

Case C-55/94

Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges C. N. Kakouris, D. A. O. Edward, G. Hirsch, G. F. Mancini, F. A. Schockweiler, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. Gulmann, J. L. Murray, P. Jann, H. Ragnemalm and L. Sévon

Advocate General P. Léger

(Opinion June 20)

[Judgment November 30]

In the context of proceedings concerning the setting up by a German lawyer of chambers in Italy, the Court of Justice of the European Communities laid down a number of principles relating to the right of establishment and provision of services.

The Consiglio Nazionale Forense (National Council of the Bar), Italy, had, by order of December 16, 1993, referred to the court for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty two questions on the interpretation of Council Directive 77/249/EEC of March 22, 1977 to facilitate the effective exercise by lawyers of freedom to provide services (OJ 1977 L78 p17).

The questions were raised in proceedings in which Mr Reinhard Gebhard, a member of the Stuttgart Bar who had opened his own chambers in Milan, challenged a decision by the Milan Bar Council suspending him from pursuing his professional activities on the ground that he had contravened his obligations under an Italian law by pursuing a professional activity in Italy on a permanent basis in chambers set up by himself while using the title "avvocato".

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

The situation of a Community national who moved to another member state of the Community to pursue an economic activity there was governed by the chapter of the Treaty on the free movement of workers, which was not relevant to the present questions and so could be disregarded, or the chapter on the right of establishment, or the chapter on services ; those being mutually exclusive.

The provisions of the chapter on services were subordinate to those of the chapter on the right of establishment in so far as (i) the wording of the first paragraph of article 59 assumed that the provider and the recipient of the service concerned were "established" in two different member states and (ii) the first paragraph of article 60 specified that the provisions relating to services applied only if those relating to the right of establishment did not apply.

It was therefore necessary to consider the scope of the concept of "establishment". The right of establishment, provided for in articles 52 to 58 of the Treaty, was granted both to legal persons within the meaning of article 58 and to natural persons who were nationals of a member state of the Community.

Subject to the exceptions and conditions laid down, it allowed all types of self-employed activity to be taken up and pursued on the territory of any other member state, undertakings to be formed and operated, and agencies, branches or subsidiaries to be set up.

It followed that a person could be established, within the meaning of the Treaty, in more than one member state, in particular, in the case of companies, through the setting up of agencies, branches or subsidiaries (article 52) and, as the court had held, in the case of members of the professions, by establishing a second professional base.

The concept of establishment within the meaning of the Treaty was therefore a very broad one, allowing a Community national to participate, on a stable and continuous basis, in the economic life of a member state other than his state of origin and to profit therefrom, so contributing to economic and social interpenetration within the Community in the sphere of activities as self-employed persons.

In contrast, where the provider of services moved to another member state, the provisions of the chapter on services, in particular the third paragraph of article 60, envisaged that he was to pursue his activity there on a temporary basis.

The temporary nature of the activities in question had to be determined in the light, not only of the duration of the provision of the service, but also of its regularity, periodicity or continuity.

The fact that the provision of services was temporary did not mean that the provider of services within the meaning of the Treaty could not equip himself with some form of infrastructure in the host member state, including an office, chambers or consulting rooms, in so far as such infrastructure was necessary for the purposes of performing the services in question.

However, that situation was to be distinguished from that of Mr Gebhard who, as a national of a member state, pursued a professional activity on a stable and continuous basis in another member state where he held himself out from an established professional base to, among others, nationals of that state. Such a national came under the provisions of the chapter relating to the right of establishment and not that relating to services.

The Milan Bar Council argued that a person such as Mr Gebhard could not be regarded for the purposes of the Treaty as being "established" in a member state, in his case, Italy, unless he belonged to the professional body of that state or, at least, pursued his activity in collaboration or in association with persons belonging to that body.

That argument could not be accepted.

The provisions relating to the right of establishment covered the taking up and pursuit of activities. Membership of a professional body might be a condition of taking up and pursuit of particular activities, but could not itself be constitutive of establishment.

It followed that the question whether it was possible for a national of a member state to exercise his right of establishment and the conditions for exercise of that right had to be determined in the light of the activities which he intended to pursue on the territory of the host member state.

Under the terms of the second paragraph of article 52, freedom of establishment was to be exercised under the conditions laid down for its own nationals by the law of the country where establishment was effected.

In the event that the specific activities in question were not subject to any rules in the host state, so that a national of that member state did not have to have any specific qualification in order to pursue them, a national of any other member state was entitled to establish himself on the territory of the first state and pursue those activities there.

However, the taking up and pursuit of certain self-employed activities might be conditional on complying with certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action justified by the general good, such as rules relating to organisation, qualifications, professional ethics, supervision and liability.

Such provisions might stipulate in particular that pursuit of a particular activity was restricted to holders of a diploma, certificate or other evidence of formal qualifications, to persons belonging to a professional body or to persons subject to particular rules or supervision.

They might also lay down the conditions for the use of professional titles, such as "avvocato".

Where the taking up or pursuit of a specific activity was subject to such conditions in the host member state, a national of another member state intending to pursue that activity must in principle comply with them.

It was for that reason that article 57 provided that the Council was to issue directives, such as Council Directive 89/48/EEC of December 21, 1988 on a general system for the recognition of higher education diplomas awarded on completion of professional education and training of at least three years' duration (OJ 1988 L19 p16), for the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications, or for the coordination of national provisions concerning the taking up and pursuit of activities as self-employed persons.

It followed, however, from the court's case law that national measures liable to hinder or make less attractive the exercise of fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Treaty had to fulfil four conditions:

1 They must be applied in a non-discriminatory manner;

2 They must be justified by imperative requirements in the general interest;

3 They must be suitable for securing the attainment of the objective which they pursued; and

4 They must not go beyond what was necessary in order to attain that objective.

Likewise, in applying their national provisions, member states could not ignore the knowledge and qualifications already acquired by the person concerned in another member state.

Consequently, they had to take account of the equivalence of diplomas and, if necessary, proceed to a comparison of the knowledge and qualifications required by their national rules and those of the person concerned.

On those grounds the Court of Justice ruled:

1 The temporary nature of the provision of services, envisaged in the third paragraph of article 60 of the EC Treaty, was to be determined in the light of its duration, regularity, periodicity and continuity.

2 The provider of services, within the meaning of the Treaty, could equip himself in the host member state with the infrastructure necessary for the purposes of performing the services in question.

3 A national of a member state who pursued a professional activity on a stable and continuous basis in another member state where he held himself out from an established professional base to, among others, nationals of that state, came under the provisions of the chapter relating to the right of establishment and not those of the chapter relating to services.

4 The possibility for a national of a member state to exercise his right of establishment, and the conditions for the exercise of that right, had to be determined in the light of the activities which he intended to pursue on the territory of the host member state.

5 Where the taking up of a specific activity was not subject to any rules in the host state, a national of any other member state would be entitled to establish himself on the territory of the first state and pursue that activity there.

On the other hand, where the taking up or the pursuit of a specific activity was subject to certain conditions in the host member state, a national of another member state intending to pursue that activity must in principle comply with them.

6 National measures liable to hinder or make less attractive the exercise of fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Treaty must fulfil four conditions:

(i) they must be applied in a non-discriminatory manner;

(ii) they must be justified by imperative requirements in the general interest;

(iii) they must be suitable for securing the attainment of the objective which they pursued; and

(iv) they must not go beyond what was necessary in order to attain it.

7 Member states must take account of the equivalence of diplomas and, if necessary, proceed to a comparison of the knowledge and qualifications required by their national rules and those of the person concerned.

Procedural fairness in operation of public safety exclusion orders

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Gallagher

Case C-175/94

Before C. N. Kakouris, President of the Sixth Chamber and Judges G. Hirsch, G. F. Mancini, F. A. Schockweiler and P. J. G. Kapteyn

Advocate General M. B. Elmer

(Opinion October 12)

[Judgment November 30]

A Community directive prohibited administrative authorities from taking a decision ordering the expulsion of a foreign national on the ground of, inter alia, public security, before a competent authority had given its opinion, except in cases of urgency.

Provided that it could perform its duties independently, the competent authority could be appointed by the administrative authority that took the decision ordering expulsion.

The Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EC Treaty made by the Court of Appeal by order of February 10, 1994 in proceedings by Mr John Gallagher raising questions of interpretation of article 9 of Council Directive 64/221/EEC of February 25, 1964 on the coordination of special measures concerning the movement and residence of foreign nationals which were justified on grounds of public morality, public security or public health (OJ, English Special Edition 1963-1964, p117).

By section 7 of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989, if the secretary of state was satisfied that a person had been involved in certain acts of terrorism, he could make an exclusion order prohibiting that person from being in or entering the United Kingdom.

Under paragraph 3 of Schedule 2, a person objecting to an exclusion order made against him could make representations in writing, including a request for an interview with a person or persons nominated by the secretary of state.

In 1983, Mr Gallagher, an Irish national, was sentenced to imprisonment in Ireland for possession of rifles for unlawful purposes.

Later Mr Gallagher travelled to and worked in the United Kingdom, and in September 1991 he was arrested under the 1989 Act and served with an exclusion order under section 7.

After his removal Mr Gallagher raised objections against the exclusion order under paragraph 3 of Schedule 2.

He was interviewed at the British Embassy in Dublin in December 1991. The person nominated by the secretary of state did not reveal his identity and did not provide any information on the ground of the exclusion.

The secretary of state reconsidered the case pursuant to paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 to the 1989 Act, but did not alter his decision.

Mr Gallagher contended that his exclusion before he had been able to make representations or meet the person nominated by the secretary of state was contrary to article 9 of Directive 64/221, and that, by virtue of the manner of his appointment, the person nominated was not competent to deliver the opinion required under article 9.

The two questions referred were in connection with those issues.

Article 9 provides: "(1) Where there is no right of appeal to a court of law, or where such appeal may be only in respect of the legal validity of the decision, or where the appeal cannot have suspensory effect, a decision refusing renewal of a residence permit or ordering the expulsion of the holder of a residence permit from the territory shall not be taken by the administrative authority, save in cases of urgency, until an opinion has been obtained from a competent authority of the host country before which the person concerned enjoys such rights of defence and of assistance or representation as the domestic law of that country provides for. This authority shall not be the same as that empowered to take the decision refusing renewal of the residence permit or ordering expulsion.

"(2) Any decision refusing the issue of a first residence permit or ordering expulsion of the person concerned before the issue of the permit shall, where that person so requests, be referred for consideration to the authority whose prior opinion is required under paragraph (1). The person concerned shall then be entitled to submit his defence in person..."

In its judgment the Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice held:

The Court of Appeal did not specify in its questions whether it was seeking a ruling on the interpretation of article 9(1) or 9(2) of the directive.

However the Commission submitted, and the United Kingdom agreed, that since under UK legislation Irish nationals were not required to hold a residence permit in order to reside in the United Kingdom, a decision to exclude an Irish national working in the UK who did not hold a residence permit fell within the scope of article 9(1).

It was settled law that the object of article 9(1) was to ensure minimum procedural safeguards for persons affected by a decision refusing renewal of a residence permit or ordering the expulsion of the holder of a residence permit.

The court had also already held that the purpose of the intervention of the competent authority referred to in article 9(1) was to enable an exhaustive examination of all the facts and circumstances, including the expediency of the proposed measure, to be carried out before the decision was finally taken, and, in, for example, Joined Cases C-297/88 and C-197/89 *Dzodzi v Belgium* ([1990] ECR I-3763, paragraph 62), that, save in cases of urgency, the administrative authority could not take its decision until an opinion had been obtained from the competent authority.

The distinction between article 9(1) and (2) was that in situations covered by subsection (1) the opinion had to be obtained before the decision was taken, whereas in situations covered by subsection (2), the opinion was obtained after the decision had been taken and only at the request of the person concerned if he had raised objections.

The directive did not specify how the competent authority referred to in article 9(1) was to be appointed.

It did not require that the authority be appointed by a court or be composed of members of the judiciary, or that members of the authority be appointed for a specific period.

The essential requirements were:

1 It be clearly established that the authority was to perform its duties in absolute independence and was not to be directly or indirectly subject, in the exercise of its duties, to any control by the authority empowered to take the measures provided for in the directive, and

2 The authority follow a procedure enabling the person concerned, on the terms laid down by the directive, effectively to present his defence: see *Dzodzi* paragraph 65.

It was for the national court to determine in each case whether those requirements had been met.

The objectives of the system provided for by the directive required that the opinion be duly notified to the person concerned, but the directive did not require the opinion to identify by name the members of the authority or indicate their professional status, as such identification was only relevant for the purpose of enabling the national court to determine whether the members of the authority were independent and impartial.

On those grounds the Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice ruled:

1 Article 9(1) of Directive 64/221 was to be interpreted as meaning that, save in cases of urgency, it prohibited the administrative authority from taking a decision ordering expulsion before a competent authority had given its opinion.

2 Article 9(1) did not preclude the competent authority referred to in that provision from being appointed by the same administrative authority as took the decision ordering expulsion, provided that the competent authority could perform its duties in absolute independence and was not subject to any control by the authority empowered to take the measures provided for in the directive.

It was for the national court to determine in each case whether those requirements had been met.

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هكذا من الأصل

It would be a tragedy if funding cuts meant having to pull the plug on a radio service that unites people around the globe and is the pride of Britain

BBC service is simply out of this world

If the Royal Naval College at Greenwich, Bart's Hospital and Twyford Down are not sacred, what hope is there for the BBC World Service? The international radio service of which Britain is ostensibly so proud has just been dealt a series of cruel cuts. These include one the Government promised it would not make in the current three-year period, for which the books had already been closed.

There is hope all the same, because Parliament has a good record of rallying round the World Service. Today at the House of Commons Peter Temple-Morris, MP for Leominster, is holding a briefing for concerned Conservative MPs. Joyce Quinn, Shadow Foreign Office spokesperson, is also looking for parliamentary ways to fight the cuts.

Yet to most in Britain, the World Service is invisible and, except for insomniacs who catch it in the middle of the night when it occupies Radio 4's long-wave slot, largely inaudible. Although national pride may swell at the thought of the service reaching 133 million people every week, it may be dimmed by the knowledge that much of the output is in 41 non-English languages. How much popular support is there for keeping the BBC in Azeri and Uzbek?

Travelling Britons can never know what the BBC World Service means to the non-English-speaking audience. It is hard to find the main English-language service on your short-wave portable, although the World Service's advice to place the radio near a window worked for me recently in Peking. What the visitor will notice, however, is the way that English-speakers abroad break a conversation to catch the latest bulletin, headed with the magic words: "This is London."

The best publicity for the World Service has come from former hostages. The released American hostage Terry Anderson said — I quote from memory: "If you took a whole bunch of money, you could not come up with anything better than the BBC World Service."

But a whole bunch of money is not available. Why should the World Service, which received £157 million for broadcasting in 1994-95, not bear its share of cuts when other corners of the Foreign Office are bearing worse?

Because the World Service is the best of whatever Britain is, delivered through the medium in whose use the national genius excels: the spoken word. Trawl through the crackling short-wave options and hear how many varieties of international broadcasting in English there are. None of them sounds like the BBC, because the BBC never sounds like the Voice of Britain — that is, government radio.

To have pulled off that trick — government-sponsored but not government-controlled — is the 63-year-old BBC World Service's contribution to the 20th century. This curious but successful form of financing compares to the similar but different trick, the compulsory licence fee, which insulates BBC domestic television and radio services from political interference.



BRENDA MADDOX

I think the same trick could have worked for BBC World Service Television, too. But the Thatcher Government chose not to put public funds behind it. The television service (launched in 1991, unobtainable in this country) is paid for by advertising. I shudder to see the World (Radio) Service being pushed in a commercial direction.

On the face of it, the Foreign Secretary's announcement on November 28 merely suggests that the World Service seek private money only for some of its capital projects. Commercial investors, so the official argument goes, could replace the £9.5 million worth of cuts in the capital budget imposed on the next two spending years.

But that suggestion is the thin end of a dangerous wedge. The World Service uses its capital funds mainly to build new transmitters: poor audibility remains its biggest problem. Entrusting the delivery of bits and pieces of the BBC's international network to commercial hands in dicey political climes abroad is another. Besides, even if private money were found, the World Service would still have to pay for leasing the transmitters back. Lo and behold: in 1997-98, the operating budget is to be cut by £4.5 million.

Private investment has murkier implications. It would further undermine the flimsy Chinese walls which divide the three distinct BBCs. These are: 1) the BBC home service: licence-fee supported television and radio; 2) BBC World Service Television, paid for by advertising, and 3) the World (Radio) Service, paid for by the Foreign Office.

To be sure, the divisions between the three are crystal clear to the BBC's administrators. They keep scrupulous books to be sure that every contribution is paid for by the service which used it. It is less clear to the BBC staff person or stringer who travels hundreds of miles into a dangerous hinterland, speaking alternatively for microphone or camera. Which service has the highest claim on their energies? I heard at least one complaint of feeling caught in a war between Bush House and the lovingly fostered World Television Service at Shepherds Bush.

For, despite the BBC's fashionable doctrine of "bimediality", these three services are not interchangeable. World Service radio is particularly special because of its multinational reach into rural areas. In the view of Fritz Groothues, the World Service's head of strategy development, the method of delivery will shift from short wave to satellite only when there is a digital system receivable on cheap, mass-produced and globally obtainable radios.

With luck, what comes out of that cheap set of the future will remain something rare: uniquely British, recognised as the best in the world. It deserves special protection.

Lineker scores a goal for Walkers

Mr Nice Guy's crisps are up, Persil is down, but Coke is still king.

Alan Mitchell on the grocery wars

Sales of the top soap brand Persil have plummeted by nearly 20 per cent since its disastrous launch of Persil Power. The Unilever-owned brand saw its sales through major grocers drop by £45 million in the year to August, leaving Persil trailing far behind its arch-rival Ariel.

Both Persil and Ariel, however, have been knocked off their perches at the top of the league of Britain's best performing brands by extraordinary performances from Nescafé, whose sales soared by an extra £45 million, and Walkers Crisps, which gained an astonishing extra £50 million-worth of supermarket revenues. The top grocery brand in Britain, according to *Checkout* magazine's annual ranking (see table), is Coca-Cola.

The figures, compiled by market researcher Nielsen, underline the unpredictability of Britain's big brand wars. Six of last year's top 50 — Andrex, Robinson's Squash, Tetley tea, Felix cat food, Golden Wonder crisps and Pot Noodles — have changed owners. And the highest profile marketing contests have produced unexpected results.

Coca-Cola, the world's biggest brand, may have been humiliated by Sainsbury's launch of its Classic cola, which instantly grabbed 60 per cent of Sainsbury's cola sales, but the "cola wars" have also aroused public interest in the category. Coke's sales are up 4 per cent, and Pepsi's have increased by 7 per cent.

The biggest victor in the great Persil Power spat was not Procter & Gamble's Ariel but own-labels. Ariel may have trounced Persil in the public relations war but it did not earn much thanks from consumers who deserted it also, leaving annual sales down £17 million.

Marketing experts say the row between the two firms over Power's alleged fabric-shredding propensities only underlined consumer confusion over which of a plethora of variants they should use. John Ballington, Lever Brothers' sales director, says that Persil sales are now climbing back. He says: "Consumers are swinging back to cheaper conventional powders." The biggest beneficiaries are supermarket sub-brands such as Sainsbury's Novon and Safeway's Cyclon.

Another upset is the dethroning of PG Tips, which was the nation's favourite tea brand for 36 years. PG's sales slumped 12 per cent last year while the Tetley's tea folk have helped to make its product Britain's most popular.

Results like this underline that the performance of British marketers is like the curate's egg. Some old, established brands can produce breath-taking results: Walkers's increase alone was the equivalent of number 47 brand Typhoo tea's total annual supermarket sales. Huggies nappies, Gold Blend coffee, Kleenex Facial Tissues, KiteKat and Pringles all recorded sales increases in excess of 25 per cent.

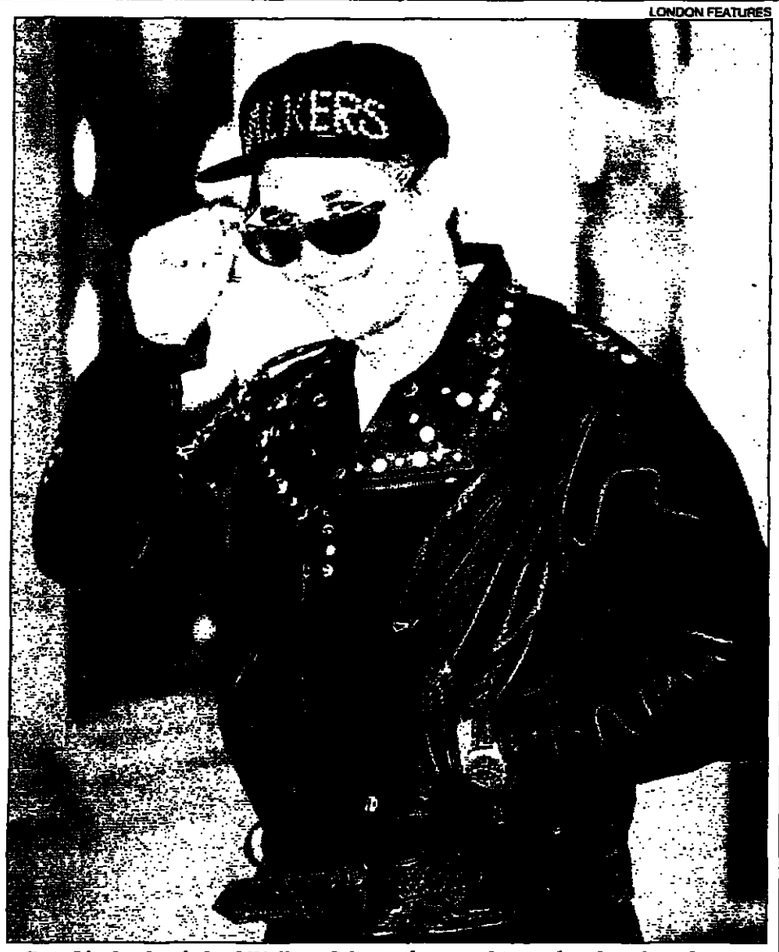
Yet despite predictions by some brand manufacturers that consumers would swing back to brands as recession eased, the opposite appears to be happening. Private label sales growth at 8.2 per cent is more than double that of the big brands overall, says Nielsen.

Why such stark performance contrasts? For some, it is easier than for others. This year, for example, soft drinks brands could not help but be buoyed by the extraordinarily hot weather. Sugar brands such as Silver Spoon and Tate & Lyle, on the other hand, are battling against an adverse tide in consumption habits.

But some manage to ride these tides better than others. Walkers Crisp marketers, for instance, have combined meticulous quality standards, minimal price increases, constant promotions, new packaging and reformulated flavours with heavyweight television advertising featuring "Mr Nice Guy", the former England footballer Gary Lineker.

And clever ideas can catch the attention of consumers. Old war-horse Anchor butter, for example, managed to beat back margarine and increase its sales by more than 20 per cent with a new "spreadable" version. Nescafé and Gold Blend sales are up because of high-profile advertising, but also because of the secret of "added aroma". That's the delicious smell of freshly ground real coffee that wafts its way to your nose every time you punch your spoon through the seal. The aroma is not actually the smell of the instant coffee you have just bought. It is specially added to make the jar-opening ritual even more satisfying. Tony Aves, Nestlé marketing manager, boasts: "We were the first to do it, and it is benefiting both brands."

LONDON FEATURES



Gary Lineker has helped Walkers Crisps to become the number three brand name

BRITAIN'S TOP-SELLING BRANDS

	BRAND	SALES £M*	CHANGE (%)
1	Coca-Cola	269.5	+3.9
2	Nescafé	240.2	+18.9
3	Walkers Crisps	220.8	+29.5
4	Ariel	216.7	-7.4
5	Persil	185.5	-19.4
6	Andrex toilet paper	171.5	+5.4
7	Pampers nappies	166.5	+5.8
8	Whiskas	151.2	+1.1
9	Robinson Squash	135.8	+13.7
10	Flora	125.0	+0.2

*Sales in grocers, year to August 1995/ Source: Checkout/Nielsen

Brian MacArthur on the battle for half a million castaways

Tabloids pick over the spoils of Today

Newspapermen may be a sentimental breed but they compete in the world's roughest and toughest newspaper market where editors' careers depend crucially on rising sales. Only rarely — once in a lifetime, if ever, for most editors — are 580,000 newspaper buyers up for grabs, as they were when the closure of *Today* was announced.

The corpse was still warm when the fight to recruit *Today* readers to new allegiances began next morning. Even as it laid down its life, the biggest shot was fired by *Today* itself as it published a special four-page appetiser for *The Sun*, its Wapping stablemate.

On offer was *The Sun* free for a day and then at 10p a day for two weeks, and a warm welcome to *The Sun* from Tony Blair, leader of the Labour Party. What a masterly tactic that was from the paper that has voted Tory in the past four elections but is now being more even-handed in pitching to readers of one of Britain's two unashamedly left-wing tabloids.

Mr Blair was in demand. The *Daily Mirror*, Labour's most fervent tabloid champion, was also offering his endorsement — but (to its immense anger) a day later than *The Sun*, along with an offer of a fiver to readers who got a friend to switch to the *Daily Mirror* for a minimum of two months. Across the top of its front page, meanwhile, the *Daily Mail* — "today's paper" — was also pitching for the *Today* vote. Its circulation department went on to buy a list of 200,000 *Today* readers and sent them a direct mailshot offering home delivery of the *Daily Mail* free for eight days and then for a period at half price.

A tantalising glimpse of the results of the battle over the carcass was offered in the Audit Bureau of Circulations' November sales figures. All the tabloids, with the sole exception of the *Daily Mirror* (down by 30,000 on October), gained readers last month but the main beneficiaries were the *Daily Mail* — up by 41,000 on October — and *The Sun* — up by 20,000. Sales figures are averaged out for a month and, therefore, captured only seven publishing days after *Today*'s closure.

When papers die, many of their readers disappear with them. That is undoubtedly happening now. Nearly 200,000 of its buyers have already disappeared. Yet it looks as if more than 300,000 have continued the habit and switched to other tabloids, with the *Daily Mail* and *The Sun* as the two major winners. Over the first two weeks when there was no *Today*, according to informed Fleet Street estimates, the *Daily Mail* sold more than two million copies a day, an increase of 150,000 on its October sale, and sales of *The Sun* were up by more than 100,000. The *Daily Mirror* has picked up about 50,000 new buyers, the *Daily Express* about 60,000-70,000 and the *Daily Star* about 10,000-20,000.

Those sales have been artificially boosted by news specials — the Princess of Wales's interview, the West trial and the Budget. More will slip away in 1996 — but a month on from the death of *Today* more than half its buyers are trying other tabloids and still reading newspapers.

NOVEMBER SALES BATTLE

Daily titles	Average daily sale	Compared with Nov 94	%
The Sun	4,075,902	+22,628	+0.56
Daily Mirror	2,492,285	+10,927	+0.44
Daily Star	754,035	+11,426	+1.54
Today	582,226	-1,121	-0.19
Daily Express	1,252,811	-50,065	-3.84
Daily Mail	1,894,242	+155,169	+8.92
The Times	672,521	+66,374	+10.95
The Daily Telegraph	1,052,340	-18,832	-1.76
The Guardian	404,450	+677	+0.17
The Independent	293,777	+3,648	+1.26
Financial Times	305,918	+12,736	+4.34
Sunday titles			
News of the World	4,620,848	-154,253	-3.23
The People	2,036,662	+4,048	+0.20
Sunday Mirror	2,478,148	-34,635	-1.38
Sunday Express	1,332,904	-96,946	-6.78
Mail on Sunday	2,020,483	+77,962	+4.01
The Sunday Times	1,281,045	-21,494	-1.65
The Observer	483,489	-26,177	-5.14
The Sunday Telegraph	677,114	+7,704	+1.15
Independent on Sunday	327,526	+12,860	+4.09

Source: ABC



The tabloids went overboard to lure Today readers

BSkyB in five million homes

THE SATELLITE television company, BSkyB, boasted last week that it had signed up its five millionth subscriber and claimed that it was now accessible to around 25 per cent of the population.

Audiences for satellite and cable television remain tiny, however, compared with those attracted by the four main channels. The top two programmes in our ratings chart attracted 1.1 million each, compared with the top two on terrestrial television, which attracted 22.8 million and 17.8 million respectively.

BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, will no doubt take comfort from the fact, however, that most of its biggest audiences are for its premium channels — sports and films — which bring in the most subscription revenue.

BBC1's *Panorama* received a massive boost with its interview with the Princess of Wales. The programme's audience of 22.8 million was more than four times the usual figure. This week's edition of the programme, containing dirty-trick allegations about the National Lottery, was another winner, attracting 7.4 million viewers.

ALEXANDRA FREAN

NETWORK & SATELLITE AND CABLE

November 20 to 26, 1995

Network Homes

	Programme	Date	Time	Chan	Producer	Genre All 4+	Audience (m)
1	Panorama Special	Mon 20	21.42	BBC1	BBC News and Current Affairs	Current Affairs	22.8
2	Coronation Street	Mon 20	19.30	ITV	Granada Television	Soap	17.8
3	Heartbeat	Sun 26	19.00	ITV	Yorkshire Television	Drama Series	16.8
4	Eastenders	Tue 21	19.29	BBC1	BBC	Soap	15.6
5	London's Burning	Sun 26	21.05	ITV	LWT	Drama Series	15.0
6	Bestion Anthology	Sun 26	20.03	ITV	Apple Corps	Documentary	14.3
7	The National Lottery Live	Sat 25	19.50	BBC1	BBC	Entertainment	14.2
8	Casualty	Sat 25	20.07	BBC1	BBC	Drama Series	14.1
9	Soldier Soldier	Tue 21	21.01	ITV	Central Television	Drama Series	13.7
10	The Bill	Tue 21	18.59	ITV	Thames Television	Drama Serial	12.5

Satellite & Cable Homes

	Programme	Date	Time	Channel	Producer	Genre All 4+	Audience (m)
1	The Simpsons	Sun 26	18.00	SKY1	Gracie Films	Animation	1.1
2	Beethoven's 2nd	Thu 23	20.01	SKYM	Universal Pictures	Film	1.1
3	Super Sunday Football:	Sun 26	12.45	SKYS	British Sky Broadcasting	Sport	0.7
4	Goldfinger	Sun 26	18.01	SKYM	United Artists/Eon	Film	0.7
5	Monday Night Football:	Mon 20	20.00	SKYS	British Sky Broadcasting	Sport	0.6
6	Serial Mom	Sat 25	22.02	SKYM	Polar Productions	Film	0.5
7	Cool Runnings	Sun 26	18.00	TDC	Walt Disney	Film	0.5
8	Super Sunday Football Intro	Sun 26	14.45	SKYS	British Sky Broadcasting	Sport	0.5
9	Beverly Hills 90210	Sun 26	18.00	SKY1	Spelling Television Inc	Drama Series	0.5
10	Earth 2	Wed 22	20.00	SKY1	Amblin Entertainment	Drama Series	0.4

BARB (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board)/David Graham & Associates 01628-322829. Copyright/no unauthorized reproduction. Repeats/second transmissions not aggregated. Highest editions per week only. Incomplete network transmissions marked (*).

Talk about upward mobility

Alexandra Frean on the radio station that swapped shock jocks for celebrity squares

It is hard to believe that Travis Baxter, managing director of Talk Radio, was once a DJ. Although he professes a devotee's enthusiasm for the world he inhabits, Baxter speaks of the industry in terms of branding, markets, product, turnover and returns on investment.

Such inherent contradictions make him well suited, perhaps, for the task of rescuing Talk Radio, Britain's third national commercial radio station, from ridicule and financial disaster.

Launched in February, Talk Radio was the first UK national station to import the American format based on phone-ins, chat shows and provocative presenters known as "shock jocks".

The station's early days were marred by its presenters' apparent lack of experience and flair, and an almost total absence of research. Audiences and advertisers did not like it and Talk Radio quickly shed a number of presenters and senior managers.

Yet since CLT, the Luxembourg media conglomerate, took a 49 per cent stake in it last month and installed Baxter as managing director, the station has made a series of programming changes designed to create a more thoughtful image and expand its weekly audience of 2.3 million.

Baxter wants to turn Talk Radio into a "*Daily Mail*-type" radio station which takes a populist approach to the major issues that affect and interest Middle Britain. But in a country already well served by middle-market newspapers, is there room for a radio station performing the same function?

Arguably, one reason why talk radio stations flourish in the United States is because the daily newspapers are relatively bland and there are no equivalents of the *Daily Express*, *Daily Mail* and *Daily Mirror* to provide outlets for lively, popular debate.

Yet Baxter believes the relative strength of the middle-market press in the UK can be turned to Talk Radio's advantage. "People who buy those papers have a high level of knowledge and interest about issues," he says. "That suggests Talk Radio could have a more interesting agenda than American stations."

There is already a growing recognition among national newspapers of the potential overlap between Talk Radio's audience and their readerships. When *Today* closed last month, most national mid-market papers rushed advertisements out on Talk Radio in an attempt to enlist *Today*'s readers.

Talk Radio's own research shows its audience is closer in age range and socio-economic background to the "older" and more "downmarket" *Daily Express* than to the *Daily Mail*. Baxter believes that to pull Talk Radio closer to the *Mail*, it needs to attract a better class of studio guest.



Travis Baxter: mid-market hopes

The station has hired a string of well-known and highly experienced presenters including ITN anchorman Trevor McDonald, former Radio 1 DJs Simon Bates and Steve Wright, television chat show host Vanessa Feltz and veteran presenter James Whale. Its guests, however, are still mostly "B-list" celebrities.

Baxter wants to attract a better calibre of guest, although he recognises that with competition from the Radio 4's *Today* programme and Radio 5 Live, it may take years to achieve. All the same, to that end he is diversifying Talk Radio away from phone-ins and chat, and has earmarked £1 million to develop a range of new shows including quizzes, dramas and a "question time" show similar to *Any Questions*.

Having CLT, a well-known and well-capitalised shareholder, on board should boost Talk Radio's credibility, Baxter says. As well as running the highly successful RTL radio network in France, CLT runs the popular music station Atlantic 252, which broadcasts to the UK from Ireland, and has many other European radio, television and publishing interests.

Keith Robertshaw, associate director of leading airtime buyer The Media Centre, says Talk Radio's move away from endless phone-ins and its development of programme strands aimed at different audiences appeals to advertisers, because it allows them to target their ads accurately.

Stranding is also attractive for sponsorship, such as the £1.5 million deal with Kleenex to sponsor Simon Bates's sentimental "Our Tune" slot.

However, media analyst Lucy Broke says there is one vital ingredient of Talk Radio that it cannot change. The company's original owners bid an astronomical £3.8 million a year for its licence, which the station is now lumbered with.

NEWS

Tory MP's death puts seat at risk

■ The Government was last night facing the likelihood of its Commons majority being cut to three in the new year after the sudden death of the senior backbencher Sir David Lightbown.

Sir David, MP for Staffordshire South-East, died after collapsing at the Varsity rugby match at Twickenham. He was 63. His majority of 7,192 over Labour at the last election looks highly vulnerable and many Conservative MPs accept that they will lose the seat ..... **Pages 1, 2**

Bosnia pilots return to France

■ Two French pilots held by the Bosnian Serbs for 103 days walked unsteadily across the tarmac at a military air base outside Paris to receive a heroes' welcome from President Chirac. Their safe return removed the last impediment to tomorrow's signing of the peace agreement ..... **Pages 1, 13**

Cutting note

A £350,000 libel victory by the rock star Elton John was cut to £75,000 in a landmark Court of Appeal ruling which could end the jackpot of excessive awards for defamation ..... **Page 1**

Lottery warning

The National Lottery regulator will be told by Virginia Bottomley to distance himself from lottery companies after admitting that he accepted free flights from one of the main bidders.... **Pages 1, 7, 19**

Serial rapist jailed

A man believed to be one of Britain's worst serial rapists with up to 100 victims, received five life sentences at the Old Bailey. He stalked night buses and posed as a cab-driver ..... **Page 3**

Doubles all round

The Government raised recommended safe drinking levels and suggested that middle-aged abstainers might be healthier for a daily drink..... **Pages 5, 19**

Death of an idealist

Frances Lawrence, widow of the murdered headmaster, wrote to his pupils imploring them to share his ideals so that his death would not be in vain..... **Page 6**

Millionaire robbed

Masked raiders took cash and jewellery after overpowering the property multi-millionaire Eddie Healey and his family at their home near Hull ..... **Page 8**

Right to ramble

The Ramblers' Association's draft Access to the Countryside Bill would make it a criminal offence for landowners to stop the public entering woods, riversides and uncultivated land..... **Page 9**

Campaign con

America was transfixed by the admission of Enid Greene Waldholtz, a newly-elected Utah Republican congresswoman, that her campaign had been fraudulently financed..... **Page 11**

Nablus withdrawal

Arab and Jewish security forces closed ranks to ensure a peaceful end to 28 years of military occupation of Nablus, a West Bank hotbed of violent Palestinian opposition to Israel..... **Page 12**

Austria awakens

Jörg Haider, a Porsche-driving populist, has polarised the Austrian elections. He has injected passion into the most placid of political systems..... **Pages 14, 19**

Euro baptism

The German-inspired baptism of the future single currency, or Euro, is likely to be the most newsworthy product of the summit in Madrid..... **Page 14**

Agnelli abdicates

The abdication of Gianni Agnelli, 74, as chairman of Fiat, will not erode the Piedmontese patriarch's reputation as the uncrowned king of Italy ..... **Page 15**

Things that go bump in the night

■ Christmas revellers can have one loud final fling. A new offence of night-time noise will require legislation which the Government cannot introduce until after the new year celebrations. But therafter, rowdy neighbours will face on-the-spot fines of £40 if they refuse to heed warnings to tone down night-time revelling louder than 35 decibels ..... **Page 1**



GARETH WATKINS/REUTERS

Communist CGT union members on a march protesting against Prime Minister Alain Juppé's welfare reforms. Page 15

BUSINESS

Post Office: Britain's single biggest employer, with 190,000 people, has declared an amnesty to help employees who were missold personal pension plans to join the company scheme ..... **Page 25**

Electricity: ScottishPower is to eliminate 350 jobs over the next year at Manweb, the regional electricity company it bought for £1.1 billion in October..... **Page 25**

Forte: Granada shareholders approved its £3.3 billion hostile offer for Forte..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 2.8 points to close at 3654.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 82.8 after a fall from $1.5340 to $1.5315 but a rise from DM2.2156 to DM2.2184 ..... **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: England were drawn with Italy, Poland, Georgia and Moldova in European qualifying group two for the 1998 World Cup. The finals will be held in France..... **Page 48**

Rugby union: A try in injury-time by Cambridge's hooker, Jonathan Evans, brought them victory over Oxford by 21-19 in the 114th Varsity match at Twickenham..... **Page 46**

Cricket: The West Indians were dismissed for 92 by the Australian Academy XI in Wollongong and lost a one-day match by eight wickets..... **Page 42**

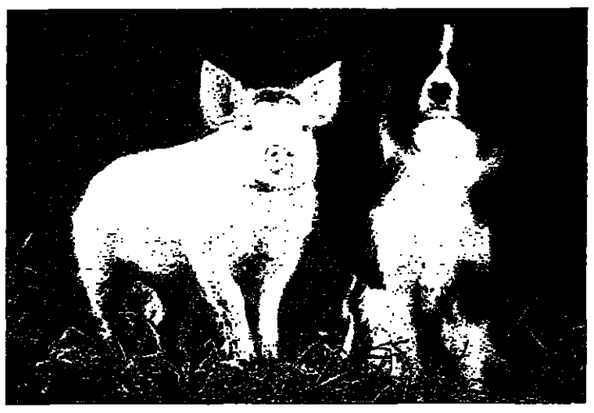
Olympic Games: NBC has obtained exclusive US rights to the 2004, 2006 and 2008 Games for $2.3 billion. It has already signed a deal for 2000 and 2002..... **Page 48**

Off the rails: The West End's most surprising Christmas offering will be a staging of Irvine Welsh's novel *Trainspotting*, set among Edinburgh heroin addicts..... **Page 35**

Frayn's Offenbach: At the Coliseum the English National Opera has put on *La Belle Vivette*, a riotous Michael Frayn adaptation of Offenbach..... **Page 36**

A new "crystal palace": Sir Richard Rogers's scheme to roof over the South Bank Centre with a "crystal palace" goes to the Arts Council this week. At £170 million, it does not come cheap..... **Page 37**

Curtis's comeback: Putting the disappointment of his last album behind him, Curtis Stigers was in powerful form on Monday at Shepherds Bush Empire..... **Page 36**



IN THE TIMES

■ FILMS
Geoff Brown reviews *Babe* (left) and other children's movies this Christmas

■ BOOKS
A murderer who was murdered in turn: Antonia Fraser on the vicious Lord Darnley

Preview: Democracy rules in the John Lewis stores group — or does it? *Modern Times: The Partners* (BBC2, 9.50pm). **Review:** Lynn Truss samples the culinary delights of Proust..... **Page 41**

Moral lottery

The broad issue raised by this fiasco is the future of regulation itself. At stake is more than the fate of a single bid for the lottery..... **Page 19**

Haider Land

Herr Haider will do well only because of the widespread frustration with the consensus he has challenged..... **Page 19**

Cheers, Mr Dorrell

Objections to Mr Dorrell's new guidelines tell us more about the puritan tendencies of the objectors than about the sense of the recommendations themselves..... **Page 19**

SIMON JENKINS
I believe an "informal" political sector is emerging, activist but mostly non-partisan, and as dynamic as the much-vaunted informal economy..... **Page 18**

JONATHAN MIRSKY
It is often asserted that Asians have distinct cultural values, expect their governments to maintain stability and provide them with food, shelter and clothing, and are not interested in Western concepts of human rights..... **Page 18**

PETER RIDDELL
John Major and Tony Blair will carry on playing the old game of Prime Minister's Questions every Tuesday and Thursday with cynical resignation..... **Page 10**

SIMON BARNES
I don't go to sport to be entertained. Nor do I switch on the television to be entertained by sport. I switch on because I don't know the result. The idea that sport needs to be Fun is a dreadful heresy..... **Page 44**

Big Garry v Little Fritz: On the eve of a chess computer's battle against "the machine" Kasparov, Garry talks to Mary Riddell..... **Page 17**

Little black number: Jaeger's latest collection includes a selection of elegant party dresses — all in sophisticated black..... **Page 16**

Do your homework: Would-be buyers at auction must research their choice carefully..... **Page 39**

Lineker's winner: Walker's Crisps have gained £50 million of revenue, with credit going to Gary Lineker's not-so-nice-guy advertising persona..... **Page 23**

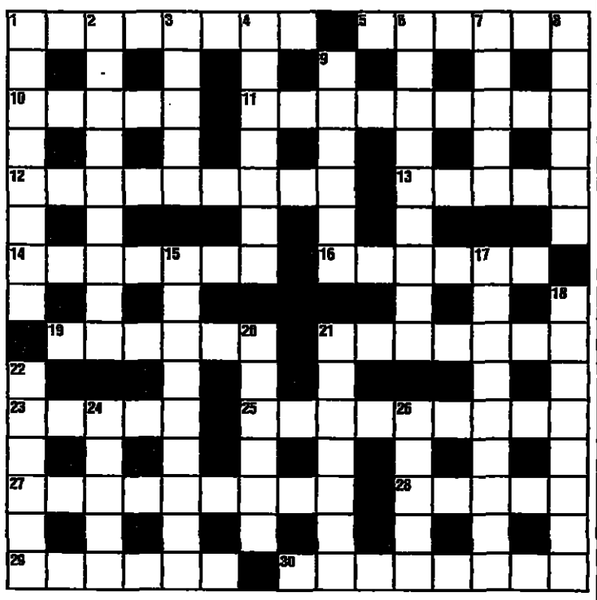
One hundred years on: The success of Aston University, celebrating its centenary today, is based on its ability to change..... **Page 32**

Hysteria about mad cow disease is sweeping all before it. But at least that great British dish, calves' liver and bacon, seems safe. Liver, it appears, is invulnerable to the prion protein, the hypothetical killing agent which will send us all round the bend. Long before that happens, of course, we shall all be mad with worry anyway. But liverish, never —*Evening Standard*

Hugh Clegg, Professor of Industrial Relations at Warwick University, 1967-79; **Arthur Mullard**, comedian; **Sir Godfrey Agnew**, clerk to the Privy Council; **Sir Francis Boyd**, *Guardian* political correspondent..... **Page 21**

Interest rates; maths teaching; rail privatisation..... **Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,037



ACROSS

1 Striking show of appreciation — slow to disapprove (8).
5 The favourite could be a strange child (4-2).
10 Work unit in State combine (5).
11 Screened in silence with spoken accompaniment (9).
12 Restriction making potato store lower (5-4).
13 A high-flier chosen to represent US (5).
14 Shed water, having ducked in river? On the contrary (7).
16 Smartens up pair of little rascals (6).
19 One tending to be less stout (6).
21 Bloomer's a big one, disastrously so (7).
23 Previous head of house (5).
25 Coach party for old militiamen (9).
27 Pass with hesitation and be in disarray as one played with Harlequin (9).
28 Instrument of buccaneer's execution (5).
29 Attract some apprentices (6).
30 Highly delicate English leather given special treatment (8).

DOWN

1 Detectives following one into flat, say, revealing crime (8).
2 Account arranged by being introduced to local resident (9).
3 Make slow progress in Indian powwow initially (5).
4 A scientist working hard finally gets leave (7).
6 Uncertain girl presented with the token of love (9).
7 Tack grips when hammered (5).
8 Failed to attend, but allowed to pass (6).
9 Old watch list applied to harbour vessel (6).
15 A main crop developed, taking the broad view (9).
17 Pointed shape confined to fish (9).
18 Chief vehicle noise a new driver creates? (8).
20 Keep army in check (6).
21 Most daring items of underwear (7).
22 Risky venture that's reduced one's hard cash (6).
24 Has occupier, so key's provided (5).
26 Form of restraint — what a Piggy-Wig had? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,036

S	P	L	A	S	H	D	O	W	N		O	S		
	E	G	U	R		E	L	A	P	S	E			
A	R	T	I	C	L	E	D		S		E	A		
	I	T	L	E	N	S	N	A	R	E	S			
O	A	A	R						E	E				
A	D	I	T		B	I	L	L	P	O	S	T	E	R
E		E	A	Y	U		T	P						
R	O	W	D	I	L	Y		V	E	N	D	A	C	E
O	E		O	S		R	I		N					
B	A	S	S	O	O	N	I	S	T		S	E	A	T
A	L			N		O		C		F				
T	H	E	M	A	T	I	C		R		L		R	
I		Y		R		E	P	I	S	O	D	I	C	
C	H	A	C	H	A		R		C		S		C	
S		N		P	H	E	N	O	M	E	N	A	L	

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Herts & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouca,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereffds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Isle of Man, and Machrihanish, Strathclyde, 11C (52F); lowest day max: Aviemore, Highland, 01C (34F); highest rainfall: Hunstanton, Norfolk, 0.05in; highest sunshine: Isle of Man, 6.3hr.

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** most of England and Wales will have a fairly cloudy day, although it will become brighter in northern counties during the afternoon. East Anglia and much of southern England will be rather grey again with a cold northeast wind and patchy light rain. It should become drier later, although the extreme south will remain dull and damp. Scotland and Northern Ireland will, once any early morning frost and fog has cleared, be generally fine with broken clouds. The best of the sunshine will be in western counties.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands:** grey with patchy rain and drizzle. Wind northeast moderate occasional fresh. Rather cold. Max Temp 7C (45F).

☐ **E England, Central N, NE England.** Rather cloudy but mainly dry. Wind northeast moderate. Rather cold. Max Temp 7C (45F).

☐ **W Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** rather cloudy, a few spots of drizzle. Wind northeast moderate occasional fresh. Rather cold. Max Temp 8C (46F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** rather cloudy, sunny intervals later. Wind northeast moderate. Max Temp 7C (45F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Northern Ireland:** patchy frost and fog clearing, then dry with a few sunny intervals. Wind north or northeast light to moderate. Max Temp 8C (46F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** mostly dry, perhaps a few showers. Wind northerly moderate. Max Temp 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** Any drizzle in the south clearing, then mostly dry but fairly cloudy.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

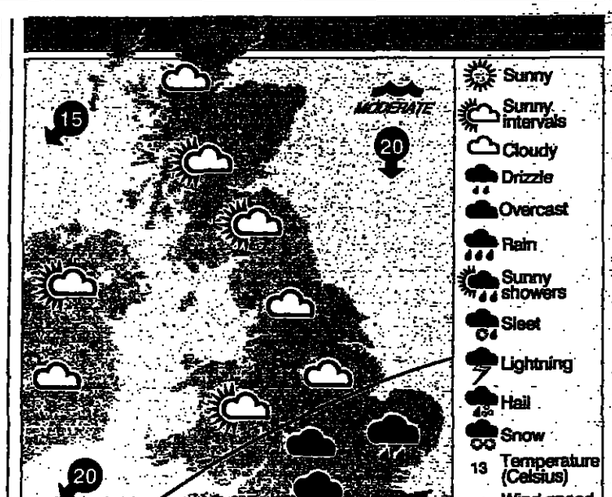
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	3.6	-	8	46	s	Liverpool	-	-	3	37	fg
Aspatria	0.2	0.01	4	39	fg	London	-	-	7	45	d
Aviemore	0.7	0.01	1	34	r	Lowestoft	-	0.04	8	46	d
Belfast	4.3	-	9	48	fg	Manchester	-	-	4	39	fg
Birmingham	-	0.01	6	43	fg	Margate	-	0.02	9	48	d
Bognor R	-	-	7	45	c	Minehead	-	0.01	5	41	d
Bournem'th	-	-	7	45	d	Morecambe	-	-	5	41	fg
Bristol	-	-	4	39	d	Newcastle	X				
Buxton	-	0.01	6	43	fg	Newquay	X				
Cardiff	-	-	7	45	d	Norwich	-	0.02	7	45	d
Clacton	-	0.01	7	45	c	Nottingham	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	-	-	6	43	fg
Colwyn Bay	-	-	6	43	c	Penzance	3.6	-	8	46	s
Cromer	-	0.03	8	46	d	Plymouth	-	-	8	46	c
Eastbourne	X					Poole	-	0.01	7	45	c
Edinburgh	0.2	-	3	37	fg	Prestatyn	X		4	39	fg
Eskdalemuir	5.2	-	6	43	s	Ross-o-wye	-	0.02	4	39	fg
Exmouth	X					Ryde	X				
Falmouth	-	-	8	46	c	Sandown	-	-	8	46	d
Fishguard	4.4	-	8	46	s	Saunin Snd	-	-	7	45	du
Folkestone	-	0.03	8	46	d	Scarboro'	-	0.03	8	46	fg
Glasgow	-	-	4	39	fg	Shanklin	X				
Guernsey	-	-	10	50	c	Shrewsbury	-	0.01	4	39	fg
Hastings	-	0.02	7	45	d	Skegness	-	0.04	6	46	d
Hayling I.	-	-	8	46	c	Southend	-	0.02	7	45	d
Herne Bay	-	0.03	10	50	d	Southport	-	-	4	39	fg
Hove	-	-	8	46	c	Southsea	-	-	10	50	c
Hunstanton	-	0.05	7	45	d	St. Ives	X				
Ilfracombe	X					Stornoway	-	0.02	9	48	c
Isle of Man	6.3	-	11	52	s	Swanage	X				
Jersey	-	-	8	48	d	Teignmouth	-	-	7	45	c
Kinloss	0.8	-	6	43	d	Tiree	1.3	-	10	50	d
Leeds	-	-	7	45	d	Torquay	-	-	8	46	du
Lerwick	2.1	0.01	9	48	sh	Tynemouth	-	-	7	45	d
Leuchars	2.5	0.01	5	41	s	Ventnor	-	-	7	45	du
Littlehmptn	-	-	7	45	du	Weymouth	-	-	7	45	c

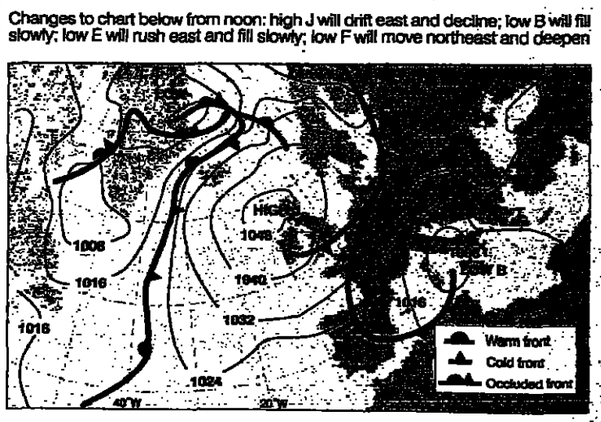
ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	c	Corfu	12	54	r	Madrid	10	50	f
Alicntnl	15	59	f	C'phagn	2	36	c	Majorca	16	61	f
Alex'dria	13	55	c	Dublin	6	43	t	Malaga	15	59	f
Algiers	17	63	f	Dubrownik	7	45	f	Malta	19	66	f
Amst'dm	3	37	s	Faro	14	57	r	Melb'rne	15	59	s
Athens	12	54	f	Florence	9	48	f	Mexico C	-	-	-
B Aires	26	79	s	Frankfurt	4	39	c	Miami	23	73	f
Bahrain	21	70	f	Funchal	18	64	c	Milan	6	43	s
Bangkok	31	88	s	Geneva	3	37	c	Montreal	-15	5	-
Barcelona	13	55	s	Gibraltar	15	59	f	Moscow	-4	25	c
Beirut	13	55	f	Helsinki	-4	25	c	Munich	0	32	sn
Belfast	6	41	fg	Hong K	23	73	s	N Delhi	20	68	s
Belgrade	1	34	f	Innsbruck	1	34	c	N York	-5	23	s
Berlin	1	34	c	Istanbul	8	46	f	Nairobi	25	77	f
Bermuda	18	64	c	Jeddah	25	77	s	Naples	11	52	r
Biarritz	8	46	fg	Jo'burg	21	70	f	Nice	13	55	s
Borde'x	1	34	-	Karachi	17	63	s	Oslo	2	36	c
Brussels	3	37	c	L Angels	15	59	f	Paris	6	43	c
Budapst	-1	30	c	L Palmas	20	68	d	Peking	6	43	s
Cairo	17	63	f	Le Touet	7	45	f	Perth	28	82	c
Cape Tn	31	88	s	Lisbon	11	52	r	Prague	-1	30	c
Ch'church	-	-	-	Locarno	8	46	s	Reykjavik	2	36	f
Chicago	-14	7	c	Luxembg	2	36	c	Rhodes	13	55	s
Cologne	4	39	c	Luxor	19	66	s	Rio de J	28	79	s
Riyadh	19	66	s								
Rome	15	59	f								
S P'laco	13	55	r								
S Paulo	30	86	c								
Salzburg	-1	30	sn								
Santiago	-	-	-								
Seoul	7	45	s								
Sing'por	30	86	c								
St'kholm	-2	28	c								
Strasb'rg	2	36	c								
Sydney	16	61	s								
Tangier	18	66	f								
Tel Aviv	14	57	s								
Tenerife	18	64	d								
Tokyo	-	-	-								
Toronto	-9	16	s								
Tunis	13	55	f								
Valencia	16	61	f								
Vanc'ver	11	52	c								
Venice	6	43	f								
Vienna	0	32	sn								
Warsaw	1	34	sn								
Wash'ton	-3	27	c								
Zurich	1	34	c								

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: high J will drift east and decline; low B will fill slowly; low E will rush east and fill slowly; low F will move northeast and deepen



TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4:54	6.51	5:34	6.50	Leith	6:12	4.86	6:25	4.82
Aberdeen	4:56	3.75	5:03	3.84	Liverpool	2:26	8.19	2:41	8.14
Avonmouth	10:26	11.36	10:49	10.99	Lowestoft	0:32	2.41	1:26	2.19
Belfast	2:22	3.05	2:43	3.38	Margate	2:58	4.42	3:26	4.22
Cardiff	10:05	10.77	10:28	10.20	Milford Haven	9:39	5.96	10:03	5.66
Devonport	9:04	4.92	9:30	4.82	Newquay	8:38	5.76	9:01	5.48
Dover	2:15	6.07	2:28	5.82	Oban	8:57	3.57	9:28	3.27
Dublin	3:05	3.55	3:30	3.87	Penzance	8:05	4.95	8:23	4.66
Falmouth	8:27	4.51	8:48	4.14	Portland	9:33	1.74	10:10	1.53
Glasgow	4:30	3.97	4:40	4.48	Portsmouth	2:38	4.38	2:45	4.22
Harwich	2:51	3.69	3:20	3.84	Shoreham	2:15	5.54	2:26	5.39
Holyhead	1:43	4.85	1:58	4.97	Southampton	2:07	4.18	2:23	4.09
Hull	9:44	6.41	9:52	6.58	Swansea	9:41	8.11	10:05	7.75
Ilfracombe	9:14	8.03	9:42	7.68	Tees	7:21	4.57	7:31	4.74
King's Lynn	9:44	5.58	10:02	5.59	W'ton-on-Nze	2:44	3.93	3:17	3.84

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.58 am
Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon sets 11.18 am
Moon rises 10.33 pm
Last quarter December 15

London 3.52 pm to 7.59 am
Bristol 4.01 pm to 8.08 am
Edinburgh 3.36 pm to 8.36 am
Manchester 3.49 pm to 8.17 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.13 am

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1995. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Ltd at 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and at Knowsley Park Industrial Estate, Kirkby Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9EN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Wednesday, December 13, 1995. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

هكذا من الأصل

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ARTS 35-37

Harry Gibson goes Trainspotting in the West End



FOCUS 32,33

Aston University celebrates its 100th birthday



SPORT 42-48

Giant all-rounder who is winning England over

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 46,47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13 1995

Three wise men warn Clarke to cut rates today

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE'S three remaining wise men have urged the Chancellor to cut interest rates today when he meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

In a letter to *The Times* today, Professor Tim Congdon, of Lombard Street Research, Gavyn Davies of Goldman Sachs International and Professor Patrick Minford of the University of Liverpool gave warning that the Government had underestimated the danger that the current slowdown could persist well into next year.

The three economists, survivors among the original seven-man independent forecasting panel, said that if interest rates remain unchanged, the Government is most unlikely to hit its forecast of 3 per cent growth next year. They also agreed that the Government's target for underlying inflation of 2.5 per cent or lower by the end of this Parliament will probably be achieved, even if rates are cut.

The wise men backed up calls from industry for an immediate cut in interest rates. The Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors were joined yesterday by the British Chambers of Commerce. Robin Geldard, BCC President, said that the Budget last month did nothing to stimulate consumer demand and, with no real threat of inflation in the medium term, base rates should today fall by ½-point, from 6.75 per cent.

Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at the Charterhouse Group, is a minority voice advising Mr Clarke to leave rates unchanged because he believes that there are glimmerings of consumer demand picking up without easier money.

But he conceded that today will see the closest decision since the monetary meeting in May, when the Chancellor defied Mr George and refused to raise interest rates again. "Mr Clarke was brave and right to stand up to the Governor in May. He will be more brave and just as right to defy the City now," Mr Jeffrey said.

British financial markets have been moving up steadily in anticipation of an early rate cut and will inevitably suffer if there is no decision today. Traders said that gilts, shares and sterling would all be knocked by a no-change decision because there is now such a widespread perception of how weak the economic recovery has become.

However, the setback is likely to be temporary because a clear majority of City economists and traders believe that rates will come down — if not today, then within the next couple of months. Anticipation of cuts in the US and Germany has helped to boost confidence.

The Bundesbank meets tomorrow for the last time this year but may delay a decision until the spring, if only to avoid the charge of caving into political pressure. Figures yesterday showed a fall in German inflation, to 1.7 per cent in November, from 1.8 per cent in October.

The Federal Open Market Committee convenes next Tuesday but the market's certainty that a rate cut would be announced was compromised yesterday by news of a bigger than expected 0.5 per cent jump in wholesale prices in November.

Pennington, page 27
City Diary, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3654.9	(+2.8)
Yield	3.95%	
FT-SE A All share	1782.18	(+0.65)
Nikkei	19312.77	(+85.99)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5177.09	(–7.23)*
S&P Composite	618.39	(–1.13)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¹¹/₁₆%*	(5¹¹/₁₆%)
Long Bond	111¹/₃₂*	(111¹/₃₂)
Yield	6.06%*	(6.04%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6¹/₂%	(6⁹/₁₆%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	110²⁸/₃₂	(110¹³/₃₂)

STERLING

New York		
$	1.5320*	(1.5335)
London:		
$	1.5281	(1.5341)
DM	2.2152	(2.2157)
FFr	7.6540	(7.6485)
SFr	1.7975	(1.7935)
Yen	155.70	(155.02)
£ Index	82.8	(82.8)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4482*	(1.4444)
FFr	5.0020*	(4.9865)
SFr	1.1758*	(1.1696)
Yen	101.80*	(101.15)
$ Index	94.4	(94.1)

Tokyo close Yen 101.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb) $17.20 ($17.25)

GOLD

London close $388.40 ($389.45)

* denotes midday trading price

Leeson takes gamble on prison term

BY ROBERT MILLER

NICK Leeson, the trader blamed for the £860 million collapse of Barings, took another big gamble yesterday when his lawyers filed a notice of appeal with the Singapore courts against the six-year sentence handed down on a single charge of cheating.

If the appeal goes ahead and fails, Leeson could have a further year added to his sentence of 6½ years. The six months' sentence on another, lesser charge, of cheating is not part of the appeal.

Stephen Pollard of Kingsley Napley, Leeson's British lawyer, said that the notice did not necessarily mean that an appeal would go ahead. Mr Pollard will be advised by John Koh, Leeson's Singapore lawyer, after they have studied the written grounds of the decision handed down by Senior District Judge Richard Magnus, who is known locally as "Maximum Magnus" for his tough sentencing policy.

Leeson's legal team were privately shocked at the severity of the sentence handed out by Judge Magnus after the mitigation plea presented to the court was acknowledged by Lawrence Ang, the Deputy Public Prosecutor. The prosecution did not ask for a "deterrent" sentence to be passed on the 28-year-old trader and accepted that he had returned voluntarily, co-operated fully with Singapore's Commercial Affairs Department (CAD), which is still investigating the Barings crash, and apologised to all Singaporeans for having doubted that he would receive a fair trial. He also agreed to pay £70,000 towards the CAD's costs.

Sentencing him, Judge Magnus said: "The accused was in a position of trust. He had used that position to trade his honesty and integrity. The sentence must be sufficiently substantial to indicate the gravity of the offence to the public."

If the appeal proceeds, Leeson's legal advisers hope that, having made their point, the Singapore authorities may reduce the sentence. There is no time limit on Judge Magnus to file his written decision and before he does the CAD may have decided to press charges against some of the senior executives who were supposed to be monitoring Leeson.

The Singapore inspectors' report blamed these managers of "institutional incompetence" and a "complete failure of internal controls". The report also made clear that the Singapore authorities did not believe that Leeson was solely responsible for the collapse of the 233-year old merchant bank. The inspectors said that if the rogue trader had been more closely supervised, the gamble he was taking with the bank's capital on the Far East's financial markets would have been detected.

Those most criticised in the Singapore report include James Bax, Leeson's immediate boss who is in Singapore, having surrendered his passport, and Simon Jones, also in Singapore. The CAD has not ruled out the possibility of taking these two men to court. Peter Norris, the bank's former chief executive officer in the UK, was also heavily criticised. The Singapore authorities might consider filing an extradition request with the UK for Mr Norris's return.

If the CAD takes action against Mr Bax, and maybe Mr Jones, the charges, possibly based on regulatory failures, might be laid before Christmas and Leeson could give evidence.

ALAN WELLER



David Morris, chairman Northern Electric, left, with Tony Hadfield, chief excutive

ScotPower to shed 350 jobs at Manweb

SCOTTISHPOWER said it will eliminate 350 jobs over the next year at Manweb, the regional electricity company it bought for £1.1 billion in October after a takeover battle (Eric Reguly writes).

ScottishPower hinted that more redundancies were possible in the future.

Most of the jobs losses, which are equivalent to 11 per cent of Manweb's workforce of 3,300, are disappearing from the company's head office in Chester.

The building will eventually be closed, with the remaining employees moving to a smaller site. The job reduction comes on top of the 1,000 redundancies announced by Manweb earlier this year as part of streamlining plans.

Ian Robinson, ScottishPower's chief executive, said: "We thought it was important to give our employees an early indication of the transition team's findings." More information on the integration plans will be released in mid-January.

Ian McCartney, the Shadow Employment Minister, said the latest Manweb job losses raised the total losses in the utility sector to 42,000 since 1990. Mr McCartney said yesterday: "These job cuts are to pay for the cost of ScottishPower's takeover of Manweb, and are nothing to do with improving customer service or efficiency."

Land disposal

British Land, the property group that will soon take control of the Broadgate office complex in the City, has plans to sell property worth more than £100 million. Disposals are intended to offset the increased borrowings expected to arise on the consolidation of some £800 million of debt relating to Broadgate Properties.

Page 27, Tempus 28

Stepping down

Roger Holland, chairman of Cray Electronics, the troubled data communications company, has stepped down and has been replaced by his newly appointed deputy, Alec Daly.

Page 30, Tempus 28

Post Office to help staff over mis-sold pensions

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE POST OFFICE, Britain's single biggest employer with 190,000 people on the payroll, has declared an amnesty to help thousands of employees who were mis-sold personal pension plans to join what is regarded as one of the more generous company pension schemes.

Since 1988, about 11,000 Post Office employees have been wrongly advised to leave the company scheme or not join in the first place.

The Post Office has two pension schemes — the Post Office Staff Superannuation Scheme (Posss), which is now closed to new members, and the Post Office Pension Scheme (Pops), open to all new permanent staff. The combined assets of the two schemes are £10.5 billion and the combined membership is 370,000.

The rules governing these schemes do not normally allow non-member employees to rejoin after a specified time and many of the 11,000 are past the age and time limit. Now the Post Office has signalled that any of these employees can rejoin or become a member of the company scheme for the first time provided they declare their intention to do so by June 30 next year.

Some of the employees are currently seeking compensation payments from the personal pension providers who mis-sold the plans. These claims could take up to a year or even longer to settle. But under the special deal, employees who register their intentions during the amnesty period will be allowed to join Pops.

Dermot Courtier, head of pensions policy at the Post Office, said: "As an employer with a real concern for our people, we want everyone who is eligible to have the opportunity to come under the secure umbrella of a Post Office pension scheme for their future pension and retirement needs."

He added: "We know many employees are unhappy about the private pension arrangements they have made after the publicity over the mis-selling of some personal pensions. The amnesty shows the Post Office takes very seriously its employees' concerns."

Northern Electric earns City praise

BY ERIC REGULY

NORTHERN ELECTRIC, the regional electricity company that geared itself to the hilt to fend off a hostile takeover bid, earned kudos from the City by announcing results at the top end of analysts' forecasts and faster than expected cost cutting.

The company also said that tighter price controls imposed by Offer, the electricity regulator, will reduce the bills of its 1.4 million customers by an average of £215 over the next five years. Customers will also receive a discount of £50 in early 1996 from the National Grid flotation.

Northern reported a pre-tax profit of £58.7 million in the half year to September, down £4.7 million from the year before, on turnover that fell £61 million to £429.8 million. The lower figures were due largely to the price controls which went into effect in April. Analysts had expected pre-tax profits of £49 million to £65 million.

Operating profits, however, rose 7.1 per cent to £56.9 million because of greater savings from job losses and lower restructuring costs. Earnings per share, excluding the capital gains on the sale of Northern's share in the Grid and the one-off costs associated with the package offered to shareholders in defence against Trafalgar House's bid, increased from 43.8p to 45.7p.

The interim dividend, to be paid on February 19, rises 7 per cent to 12p. A second special dividend of 56.5p is due on the same date. Northern shares rose 7p to 590p after the release of the results, then slipped to finished unchanged.

David Morris, chairman, said the bulk of the cost-cutting effort has been finished.

Granada shareholders back bid for Forte

BY ERIC REGULY



Gerry Robinson, centre, with Henry Staunton, left, and Charles Allen

GRANADA yesterday received approval from its shareholders to go ahead with its £3.3 billion hostile offer for Forte and outlined plans to overhaul Forte's budget hotels if the takeover succeeds.

Shareholders representing 40 per cent of Granada's share capital exercised their vote. Only 0.4 per cent of shares went against the resolution.

Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, said he would expand the 112-hotel Travelodge chain in the UK and make it the "clear market leader in budget accommodation". He said he would "improve price and yield", meaning he would raise prices, and add features to the rooms such as BSkyB satellite TV services. Granada owns 10.8 per cent of BSkyB.

Granada has said it "is minded" to sell the 490 Travelodge hotels in the US, but is still evaluating the business. Forte placed the US chain on the market in September, well before Granada launched its bid. The US Travelodge hotels are said to be valued at just under £100 million.

It wants to keep the British Travelodge chain and manage it through a joint venture set up by Forte's hotels and restaurants companies. Granada also said it would merge the Crest and Posthouse hotel chains in Britain and emphasise Posthouse "as the leading mid-range business hotel". Some of the White Hart and Heritage hotels would be transferred into the Posthouse family. Forte's luxury Grand and Méridien chains would be merged.

Granada, whose finance director is Henry Staunton and chief operating officer Charles Allen, said it would meet the Council of Forte on Friday to discuss its role during the takeover attempt and what function it would have if the takeover succeeds. The Council owns less than 1 per cent of Forte shares but has just over 50 per cent of its voting rights.

Channel launch, page 26
Pennington, page 27

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Doubts persist over benefit to names of Equitas escape route

Chatset split sours Lloyd's backing

BY PAUL DURMAN

CHATSET, the Lloyd's insurance market analyst that has been the best forecaster of investors' mounting losses, has given its blessing to Equitas, the reinsurance project intended to secure Lloyd's future.

The impact of Chatset's advice will be weakened, however, by the extent of the disagreement revealed yesterday between Charles Sturge and John Rew, Chatset's two principals. At the presentation in London yesterday of Chatset's latest estimates of Lloyd's future losses, Mr Rew voiced doubts about the benefits that names will receive from Equitas, set up to take over the huge liabilities of syndicates with open years.

In return for reinsurance premiums forecast at £1.9 billion, Equitas offers investors a way of finally capping their losses — and an escape from the market, which has traditionally demanded unlimited liability from its investors. Mr Rew said: "Names have already been asked to pay something over £9.5 billion. They are being asked to look positively grateful at only being asked for another £1.9 billion."

He added: "It's going to give them an illusion of finality. There are going to be a lot of people who are not going to have their Equitas premium (likely to average about £50,000). Who pays for their unpaid premium? As soon as night follows day, there's going to be another levy. This is how I see Lloyd's limping into the future."

Chatset, which says that names have no better alternative to Equitas, is forecasting future losses of £10.8 billion (up from £10.2 billion last year) across 584 open years, the total for all syndicates.

Equitas premiums totalling £1.9 billion would therefore save names nearly £9 billion — assuming this figure is confirmed. Mr Sturge also believes the agency firms that manage insurance syndicates and brokers should contribute more money to Lloyd's proposed £2.8 billion settlement offer. Lloyd's is trying to persuade names to drop the mass of litigation that surrounds the market.

After three profitable years, Chatset believes managing agents could afford an extra £300 million to £400 million "without pain". Brokers could also make a substantial contribution from their £1.75 billion of brokerage income. "They do need the Lloyd's market," said Mr Sturge.

Mr Rew feared Lloyd's may be prepared to push ahead with Equitas even without agreement on the settlement to names. Much of the savings Equitas will offer will come from a higher level of investment income. Chatset's forecast of future losses also assumes a much higher level of so-far unreported pollution claims, and higher costs from inflation and legal expenses.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Halifax acts over widows and children

THE HALIFAX has moved to ensure that tens of thousands of widows and children are not excluded from the free share bonus worth hundreds of pounds, as has happened in previous flotations, when the building society becomes a public company sometime in 1997.

On conversion, Halifax will be valued at about £10 billion giving ten million qualifying members a basic free share distribution of between £500 and £750 each. A further variable bonus will be paid to investing members of two years' standing with more than £1,000. The Halifax is now advising members to nominate a qualifying member, either a wife or friend, as an executor of their estate so that the account should be able to receive some or even all of the free shares for which deceased members could have been eligible had they survived until conversion. In cases where a parent has a joint account with each of their children the Halifax advises rolling them all over into one account.

C&G in court challenge

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER, the former building society now owned by Lloyds Bank, yesterday announced it will go to the Court of Appeal to challenge a lower court ruling which gave the Investors Compensation Scheme the right to go ahead with a joint legal action together with hundreds of elderly victims who were mis-sold home income plans. The investors have received compensation payments from the ICS but many are still left with many thousands of pounds worth of debts. C&G said that it was still not clear on what legal basis the ICS had taken "investors rights" to pursue C&G and nine other societies. **Pennington, page 27**

Nigeria embargo plan

THE United States is considering measures to help a transition to civilian rule in Nigeria, including a possible oil embargo, George Moose, the United States Assistant Secretary of State, said yesterday. "Nothing is ruled out, everything is on the table, including a possible multilateral oil embargo," Mr Moose told a House of Representatives panel. Mr Moose said the executions of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Nigerian playwright, and eight other activists in November have "profound implications for policies aimed at encouraging a rapid return to elected civilian rule in Nigeria".

Ford faces pay unrest

FORD workers are to be balloted on industrial action in the new year after union leaders confirmed rejection of the company's "final" pay offer of 4.75 per cent now, followed by 4.5 per cent or inflation plus 0.5 per cent, whichever is greater, in a year's time. Union officials will seek an urgent meeting in an attempt to head off a strike but local officers will be told to prepare for a postal ballot on action in protest at the offer. Yesterday's decision followed consultation with Ford's 22,000 production workers. The unions want a 10 per cent rise to compensate for productivity gains, and a 37-hour week.

US trade gap narrows

AMERICA'S current account deficit narrowed by nearly 9 per cent to $39.5 billion in the third quarter, reflecting an increase in exports of goods and services and a fall in imports, according to the Commerce Department. In the second quarter, the deficit had totalled $43.3 billion, just below the record level in the final quarter of 1994. Much of the improvement in the third quarter came from visible trade. One worrying sign was news that the US deficit on investment income widened to $4.2 billion in the third quarter, from $2.6 billion in the second. **Anthony Harris, page 29**

Door-to-door change

THE Personal Investment Authority, the regulator for firms selling direct to the public, has introduced a new training and competence regime for home service agents who sell a limited range of investment policies and collect the cash. The old fashioned door-to-door salesforce will sit a new Home Service Planning Certificate as an alternative to the full Financial Planning Certificate. Joe Palmer, PIA chairman, said: "It is important that PIA's training and competence requirements are properly tailored to the needs of customers in the different sectors we regulate."

Compass sells healthcare to managers in £179m deal

BY PAUL DURMAN

COMPASS, the catering group, has sold its private hospitals division to a management buyout team backed by CINVen for £178.8 million.

Compass Healthcare was put up for sale after its parent's £580 million acquisition earlier this year of Eurest, a French catering business.

Nigel Harris, managing director of Compass Healthcare, said the MBO team did not make the highest offer, but working with CINVen and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, it was able to move quickly. Earlier estimates suggested Compass was seeking £200 million.

Compass Healthcare runs 15 acute care hospitals, two nursing homes and a health screening business. In the year to October 1, it made an operating profit of £16.4 million on turnover of £70 million. Mr Harris, his management and staff will own a 10 per cent stake in the business, which will be renamed after about six months.

Although profits have continued to rise, Compass Healthcare has not expanded in the past few years, as the market slowed and Compass has increasingly concentrated on catering. Mr Harris claims his company is the most efficient of the large private hospital businesses and he sees no need for job cuts. He said: "We have been very happy with the support we have seen from Compass Group. We have not been starved of capital." Mr Harris has no immediate plans to buy more hospitals, although he sees some scope for mergers among private hospitals.

CINVen, which has underwritten the £82 million equity investment, intends to retain a majority stake after syndication. A further £100 million of senior debt comes from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. Simon Rowlands, CINVen director, said he was looking to sell the investment in Compass Healthcare in three to five years — probably through a flotation.

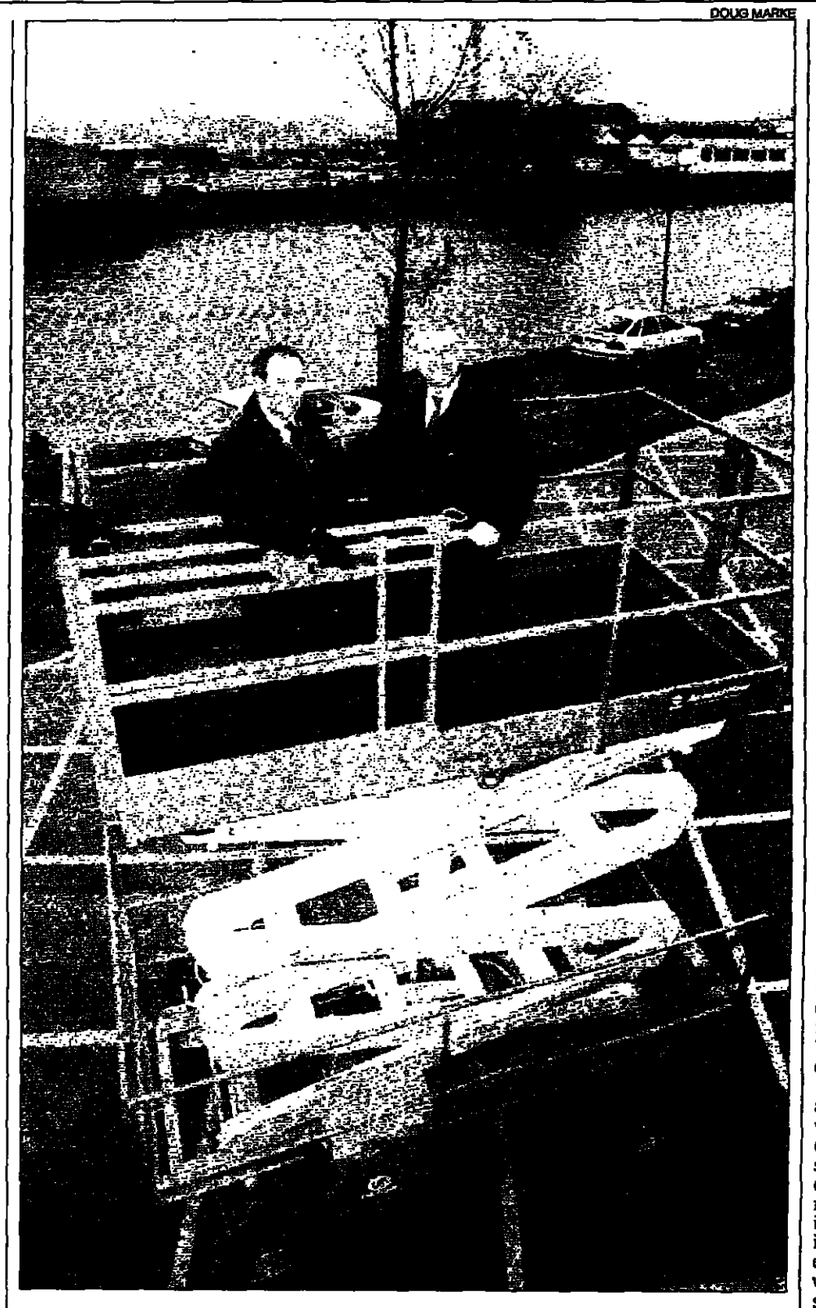
Compass will retain a stake through an £8 million secured loan, repayable after eight years, or on flotation. Compass was formed from a management buyout from Grand Metropolitan in the 1980s. CINVen was one of its backers. Compass, then led by Gerry Robinson, now fronting the £3.3 billion Granada bid for Forte, floated only a year later.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.17	2.01
Austria Sch	16.60	15.10
Belgium Fr	48.57	44.27
Canada $	2.226	2.056
Cyprus Cyp£	0.744	0.689
Denmark Kr	9.20	8.40
Finland Mkk	7.24	6.59
France Fr	8.05	7.41
Germany Dm	2.37	2.16
Greece Dr	396.00	361.00
Hong Kong $	12.52	11.52
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1800	4.5300
Italy Lira	2557.00	2402.00
Japan Yen	170.00	154.00
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.635	2.405
New Zealand $	2.52	2.30
Norway Kr	10.38	9.58
Portugal Esc	244.00	225.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.36
Spain Pta	196.00	183.00
Sweden Kr	10.95	10.15
Switzerland Fr	1.93	1.75
Turkey Lira	rater	82033.0
USA $	1.632	1.502

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

DOUG MARKE



Hire and hire: Richard Dunn and Mike Shearstone, right, chairman and managing director of Sheriff Holdings, the East Midland plant hire group, celebrate a rise in profits yesterday by the River Trent. Pre-tax profits rose from £3.6 million to £4.5 million in the year to September 30 on sales of continuing operations up from £20.2 million to £22.8 million. Total dividend for the year rises from 5.75p to 7p a share, out of earnings up from 23.9p to 30.3p. On prospects, the group says that more challenging times lie ahead.

Granada to launch two satellite channels

BY ERIC REGULY

GRANADA is to expand its television interests with the launch next year of two new channels in partnership with BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster. A formal announcement is expected by the weekend.

The first channel, which may be called Granada Gold, would draw from Granada's extensive library of programmes, including *Brideshead Revisited*, *Coronation Street* and *The Jewel in the Crown*. It would be modelled on UK Gold, the satellite and cable channel that broadcasts classic programmes, such as *Minder*, from the Thames and BBC libraries.

Such channels are fairly inexpensive to start because no new programme production is required. Most of the investment is absorbed by marketing and satellite transmission costs.

The second would deliver lifestyle programmes. Since its format is still under development, it is not likely to be ready before late next year. Other formats, such as an entertainment channel, are under consideration.

Granada would launch the channels in a joint venture with BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by The News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*. Granada has a 10.8 per cent stake in BSkyB.

Granada expects a potential audience of about 5 million, of whom 3 million would be direct-to-home satellite subscribers. Start-up costs are estimated at £15 million to £20 million. How much advertising revenue they will bring in is not known, though industry experts think the channels would be loss-making for some time.

Carlton, Granada's main ITV rival, said last week that it also planned to expand its TV interests through new satellite and cable channels in Britain and continental Europe.

Syntegra buys French group

SYNTEGRA, BT's computer and telecoms integration company, will today announce the purchase of Europe Informatique, a French information technology group, for about £15 million (Eric Reguly writes).

The acquisition, Syntegra's first, marks a new stage in the company's development. Barry Murphy, a spokesman, said: "We're buying it because we can't reach our global plans by growing organically. We've got to grow through acquisitions."

Europe Informatique has turnover of about Fr100 million and employs 200 staff. It specialises in systems integration for companies in the finance, manufacturing and utilities sectors.

Syntegra, which has turnover of £220 million and employs 1,500, is expected to buy more IT companies in Europe next year.

In Britain, it is close to signing a contract that would allow gas companies to use BT's phone lines to read gas meters. The contract, which would initially be limited to about 20,000 commercial and industrial customers, could expand to include residential customers when that market is deregulated in 1998.

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هكذا من الاصل

☐ Wise men are right this time ☐ Shareholders back Robinson ☐ C&G takes fight with elderly to appeal

Cut interest rates now

☐ THE time has come. Only three people needed to agree for the Chancellor's wise men to sign a joint letter to *The Times* urging interest rate cuts (page 19). Had there been thirty, however, few would have disdained the round robin.

The economy has been dull for months. It shows no sign of returning confidence. Nor will there be a significant boost to spending before the middle classes notice next spring's tax cuts, before pensioners blow their building society takeover bribes, or before motor employers concede huge pay rises. Don't wait for it.

The City decided before the Budget that the interest rate cycle had turned. Otherwise, the FT-SE 100 share index would be below 3,600. Sterling and gilt-edged prices have already factored in a cut in base rates. The money market already discounts a quarter point. But so far, the trend has not officially turned. Ken may have been canny enough to resist a summer rate rise, but Eddie still appears steadfast against making any cuts until the ever-receding "medium term".

The money market's quarter point might be a sensible start, though there seems no particular reason why rates should rise in half points but fall only in quarters. It might even be sensible, after this morning's monthly monetary meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor, to give the Bundesbank a chance to steal the show tomorrow before springing into action. But there is not much point in delaying any further.

Even the foreign exchanges and the gilt-edged market, the financial canaries testing for inflationary poison gas, might react badly if a cut was delayed for long. Lack of action to perk up the economy would worsen prospects for state finances, their main short-term worry, and might incite panic measures later.

Messrs Congdon, Davies and Minford, though not a natural policy trio, agree as forecasters. They do not believe that the economy will grow by 3 per cent next year, as the Chancellor has forecast, unless interest rates are cut. And they know, as the financial markets know, that the Budget projections of falling state borrowing depend on achieving that rate of growth. The Bank of England, like many outside forecasters, does not appear to expect the economy to grow so fast. So Eddie George might not see the need for a cut.

There is a more compelling argument. The economy is dull because confidence is low, in boardrooms as much as estate agencies. People do not think recovery will turn into steady growth, because interest rates will be raised to choke expansion. That is why Budget tax cuts would carry little clout in people's spending decisions.

Only by cutting rates before stagnation turns into recession can the Treasury convince people that low inflation and steady growth are compatible. There is no reason to wait.

Granada gets a go-ahead

☐ THE threat of flying paper would inevitably have caused a reaction in Granada's share price in the wake of its £3.3 billion Forte foray. But the extent of the reversal — the shares have fallen from 697p to 637p, after touching 634p — has been widely attributed to institutional anxiety over the shape of the House that



Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, is intent on building.

In the event, Robinson has duly received planning permission. Votes at yesterday's EGM in favour of Conglomerate House — not quite the way the resolution was worded — amounted to close on 40 per cent. This may appear underwhelming. Unfortunately for Forte's camp the near-60 per cent hole would appear to reflect shareholder voting apathy, rather than rebellion. Votes against Mr Robinson's tilt at Forte amounted to 0.4 per cent, while official abstentions totalled just 0.2 per cent. Granada was quick to make the most of this. Alex Bernstein, the outgoing chairman, let it be known that Granada was "delighted by the tremendous support" from shareholders. He also emphasised that the self-same shareholders "clearly share our view that Forte is a great opportunity for Granada."

Robinson, for his part, worked hard at attempting to erase the word conglomerate from his blueprint. Not for the first time he argued that Forte is not an upmarket hotel combine. The nucleus of the company, according to Robinson, comprises midmarket hotels and roadside catering. If you perceive this, so the argument goes, you perceive the synergy. Forte's shareholders will be pleased to learn that the company is not without good managers: they merely lack the "strategic direction" that Mr Robinson and his colleagues would bring to the party.

Should Granada succeed in its quest it would emerge with a leading market position in three cash generation businesses: television, rental and catering and hotels.

Forte's shares, at 337½p, are registering a 14½p premium over Granada's terms. What the City expects, in the not too distant future, is Forte's analysis of Granada.

Postponing justice

☐ SOME had thought that the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society would be subsumed in the maw of Lloyds Bank never to be seen as a separate entity again. But yesterday the former society that became part of the bank in August showed its independent fighting spirit, possibly to the annoyance of its new owner. C&G, which in its glory days caused the Treasury to change its policy on interest rates, is now tangling with hundreds of elderly investors. Its new owner wishes it was shot of the whole sorry episode.

Last month the investors were given the go-ahead to take part in a joint multi-million pound legal action against the C&G and up to nine other societies.

But the C&G is not content to let the British judicial system decide whether compensation should be paid to 200 elderly people who were mis-sold schemes which cashed in part of the value of their homes and put it into risky investment bonds. It will go to the Court of Appeal to challenge their right to join together with the help of the Investors Compensation Scheme to pursue thousands of pounds in debts.

The total amount involved is not large but to the individuals concerned it is a worrisome burden in the later years of their lives. The C&G seems happy to make lawyers rich rather than allow a quick and honourable settlement. It is worried about the legal niceties of whether the ICS should be acting for investors when any right-minded person cannot doubt that they need help and should get it if this is ever to be resolved.

Withering away

☐ STEPHEN LITTLECHILD has no option but to abandon "voluntary" price controls for power generators, which depended on his threat to refer them to the monopolies commission — a threat now fairly empty. The professor can draw satisfaction from his waning power. It shows he has succeeded in his main aim: making the market competitive. Whether that will keep prices down is another matter.

Asset sale by British Land to raise £100m

BY CARL MORTISHED

BRITISH LAND, the property group that will soon take control of the Broadgate office complex in the City, has plans to sell property worth more than £100 million.

Disposals are intended to offset the increased gearing expected to arise on the consolidation of some £800 million of borrowings relating to Broadgate Properties.

The company is also considering the sale of certain of the Broadgate assets to reduce gearing which is likely to rise to well over 100 per cent. British Land, which yesterday announced a 5 per cent increase in half-year pre-tax profits to £24.9 million, said it expected to raise a new £820 million bank facility to refinance the Broadgate debt.

John Weston Smith, finance director, said that five-year money was looking very attractive.

Mr Weston Smith confirmed that British Land expected to sell properties and already had more than £100 million of property in the hands of solicitors.

The company expects to refinance £700 million using a range of maturities and to raise a further £120 million to fund the purchase of the half share of Broadgate which is still owned by the receivers of Rosehaugh.

The property group has boosted its net rental income by 36 per cent to £90 million in the half year to September.

A large part of the increase relates to acquisitions as well as fixed rental uplifts relating to British Land's portfolio of food retail superstores.

The property group is currently raising £222 million in a placing and open offer to shareholders which is to be used to finance the purchase of seven Tesco superstores, including the 12.2 acre site at Brent Park in Neasden, north-west London, where a yield on acquisition of 7 per cent is expected to rise to 9.4 per cent on review.

After the Tesco deal, more than a fifth of the company's rent roll will be subject to guaranteed uplifts, with 80 per cent of the properties in the portfolio acquired within the last seven years.

The company is raising the interim dividend from 2.64p to 2.78p after earnings of 3.7p (3.6p).

Tempus, page 28

Schneider given deadline

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A US bankruptcy judge yesterday gave lawyers for Juergen Schneider, the fallen German real estate tycoon, ten days to prepare arguments on a petition by German authorities.

The ruling marked the latest step in a quest by a German receiver, who was appointed to liquidate Herr Schneider's estate, to interview him and his wife to determine if they have assets and creditors in the US. Judge Robert Mark ordered Michael Lacher, Herr Schneider's attorney, to file arguments by December 22.

Herr Schneider, 61, and his wife Claudia, 50, have been in jail in Miami since May as Germany's request to extradite the couple to face fraud charges works its way through the US court system. He disappeared in April 1994 but was arrested after more than a year.



Reins of power: Sir Paul Nicholson, chairman of Vaux, the Sunderland brewer, takes charge of one of the company's horse-drawn drays

Vaux shares slide after poor pub results

VAUX, the Sunderland brewer, is facing increasing City criticism after more disappointing results from its tenanted pubs in the North-East (Paul Durman writes).

The volume of beer sold through Vaux's tied pubs fell 6.3 per cent, and profits from tenancies fell 9 per cent to £14.6 million. A strong performance from Swallow Hotels helped Vaux to raise group pre-tax profits for the year 9 per cent to £31.8 million, but the shares slipped 12p to 264p on negative remarks on the pub trade from Sir Paul Nicholson, chairman. Some analysts believe Vaux should sell off many of its smaller, tenanted pubs, and shed its brewing and nursing home businesses.

Sir Paul blamed weak pub sales on the National Lottery, the trend towards drinking at home and a massive bootlegging problem. "They reckon 100 vans a day are going into Newcastle. And people in the North East really are contributing to new opera houses in London in the most amazing way."

Vaux wrote down the value of its pub estate by £12.1 million. Swallow Hotels raised profits 25 per cent to £19.7 million. Profits from nursing homes fell from £5.4 million to £4.7 million, partly because of delays caused by local authorities taking control of funding for nursing care. A final dividend of 6.75p increased the total by 3.6 per cent to 10.2p. Earnings per share rose 8.7 per cent to 17.9p.

Tempus, page 28

Amec adviser quits after panel censure

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE bid battle for Amec, the UK construction company, was plunged into further controversy yesterday as Financial Dynamics, Amec's public relations adviser, quit after the Takeover Panel took the unusual step of censuring it for a breach of the takeover code.

The panel decided that Financial Dynamics had failed to take sufficient care in its discussions with analysts and that information which was not publicly available, including a profits forecast for 1996, had been supplied to an unnamed securities firm. Amec responded by announcing it would appoint Dewe Rogerson as its new adviser. Financial Dynamics said it fully understood the obligation to meet all takeover rules and acknowledged the panel's ruling.

Meanwhile, Kvaerner, the Norwegian engineering company, which has made a £360 million bid for Amec, announced yesterday it had increased its stake by 2.4 per cent, giving it a total holding of 22.6 per cent in Amec.

Asda accused of Scrooge-like attitude on Christmas bonus



Norman: under attack

ASDA, the supermarket group where Archie Norman, the chief executive, is due to unveil profits tomorrow, has been accused of penny-pinching by refusing to pay a Christmas bonus to staff who have taken time off.

The company is giving £20 worth of Asda vouchers to staff who work more than 15 hours a week and £10 worth to workers employed for less than 15 hours a week. But if staff have taken time off in the past six months, including women on maternity leave, they will not receive the bonus.

The GMB general union, which represents thousands of Asda workers, said staff deserved the bonus for their contribution to profits. Donna Covey, national officer, said: "This is the worst case of penny-pinching I have seen."

The GMB said it was considering taking action for possible discrimination against women who took maternity leave. Asda, which is expected to announce increased half-year profits of more than £130 million, said the idea of linking the bonus to attendance came from staff.

City bank staff ready for bonus bonanza

BY PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GOLDMAN SACHS and Morgan Stanley announced bonus payments yesterday, as investment bank staff in the City braced themselves for a return to a bonus bonanza.

At Goldmans, most of its 1,500 UK-based staff received payments ranging from 10 per cent to 80 per cent of base salaries. In London, 20 high-performing staff were told their bonuses will be in the region of $1 million, while the 33 partners will have similar amounts credited to interest-bearing "capital accounts" not redeemable until retirement.

The return to chunky bonuses reflects improvements in equity and, more particularly, bond markets. It also reflects the success Goldman and other US investment banks have had in winning corporate finance mandates from UK competitors.

Administrative and support staff received 20 per cent of their basic pay, compared with 8 per cent last year and 30 per cent in 1993, the City's bumper year for bonuses.

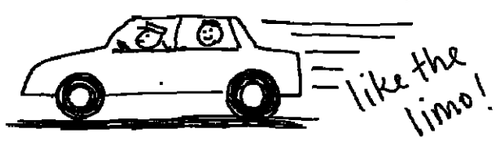
Last week, Jon Corzine, chairman of Goldman, said in a staff memo that the bonuses would reflect "a successful 1995, with earnings returning to a very solid level. Bonus awards should and do recognise your collective efforts." He also emphasised Goldman's wish to "move the firm toward a steeper incentive curve for individuals", while still encouraging teamwork.

At Morgan Stanley bonuses paid to 2,000 London-based staff were also higher than last year, but a spokeswoman said that they had not returned to 1993 levels. She said the increases reflected improved market conditions, the upturn in the industry and "the tremendous effort made by all our people this past year".

Morgan Stanley usually pays half of its net revenues in staff compensation. Revenues for the year will be announced early next year. It is also making a special payment equivalent to one week's base salary to administrative staff, in addition to any profit-sharing arrangements that will be announced next year.

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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Confidence slips as hopes fade for interest rate cut

THE confidence the market had been displaying about a possible cut in interest rates after today's meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, appeared to be fading fast last night.

The FT-SE 100 index, which enjoyed an encouraging early mark-up, was looking a pale shadow by the close. It achieved an early lead of 16 points, helped by another positive performance overnight on Wall Street where oil stocks had been chased higher on the back of a stronger crude price. But it finished just 2.8 up at 3,654.9 after being undermined by the stronger-than-expected US Producer Price index.

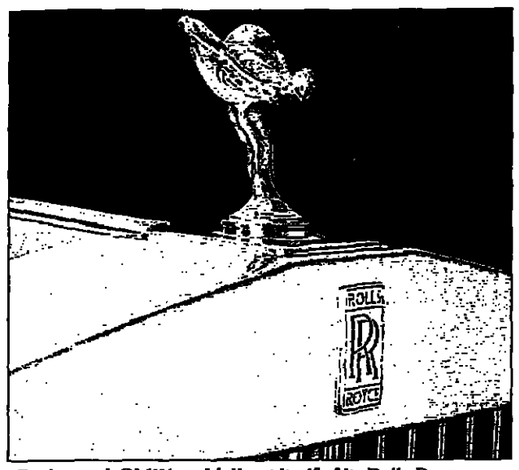
Once again dealers reported little genuine retail demand and by the close only 675 million shares had changed hands. Institutional investors are in no rush to open fresh positions ahead of today's monthly economic strategy meeting and tomorrow's Bundesbank meeting. Nor have they forgotten this week's Retail Price Index.

Rexam enjoyed a much-needed rally with a rise of 9p to 337p. There is talk that the group, which has been a weak market of late, may find itself on the receiving end of a bid from Alusuisse, the Swiss aluminium producer, which is said to be anxious to diversify into other less cyclical areas. Rexam might just fit the bill.

British Steel retreated 3½p to 158p after being hit by a welter of cautious comments from brokers. James Capel, Kleinwort Benson and Robert Fleming were all reckoned to have been sellers yesterday. SBC Warburg says the shares should be sold down to 140p. But **British Aerospace** recovered after recent nervousness with a rise of 11p to 788p as the bargain-hunters made their presence felt.

Pearson rose 7p to 667p. The group meets brokers at Ham to give them a rundown of proposed board changes and management restructuring. There has been talk of a possible bid for Pearson.

But fading bid hopes left **Vickers**, the tanks to luxury motor car group, 8p lower at 274p. **GKN**, 6p off at 797p, has denied claims that it wants to bid for Vickers, but there is also talk that BMW would like to take out its Rolls-Royce motor car arm and add its famous marque to Rover.



Rocky road: BMW could divest itself of its Rolls-Royce arm

Former takeover target **Northern Electric** marked time at 583p after weighing in with half-year figures in line with City expectations. Shareholders were rewarded with a 7 per cent increase in the half-year payout to 12p with the group confirming plans to pay 39.3p for the full year and a special payment of 56.5p. The group says it plans to cut customers' bills by £215 during the next five years. Brokers say that with a strong defence in place, another bid for Northern appears remote.

Scottish Power has already begun wielding the axe following its recent takeover of Manweb. It is losing 350 jobs during the next year, is in addition to the 1,000 jobs shed by Manweb. **Scottish Power** finished 2p easier at 365p.

News that **Goal Petroleum** *is in bid talks* enabled the share price to put on 21p at 89p, adding £28 million to the group's stock market value of £91.2 million. The company, which has stakes in the Buchan, Balmoral and Wytch Farm oilfields, said it was in talks that might lead to an offer. Whispers in the marketplace suggested **Enterprise Oil**, up 10p at 365p, might be interested in making an offer. Goal's asset value is estimated to be around 75p a share.

Details of **Waste Management International's** profits warning and substantial write-off left its shares nursing a fall of 23p at 322p. It said that profits in the fourth quarter will fall short of estimates and that it intends to write-off £123 million relating to restructuring charges. The group also plans to shed 300 jobs.

The news that **British Vita** is about to hit the acquisition trail lifted the shares 14p to 216p. The group says trading is no worse than expected, which came as a relief also to the market.

It looks as if Kvaerner, the Norwegian group, has been adding to its stake in **Amec**, unchanged at 100p. SBC Warburg has bought a further 4.9 million shares, lifting its total holding to 45.7 million, or 22.56 per cent.

An increase of almost one-third in full-year pre-tax profits failed to benefit **Stakis**, the casinos and hotels operator, which finished 2p ligher at 79p. The group has set aside an extra £33.4 million for its hotels and to build new casinos. Brokers are looking for £32 million in the current year.

Vaux, the brewer and nursing homes group, slumped 12p to 252p after full-year figures failed to live up to brokers' expectations. They expressed *disappointment with the performance of the hotels and brewing operations.*

Alba enjoyed a mark-up of 15p to 282p after meeting Henderson Crosthwaite for dinner on Monday. The company is apparently enjoying strong sales growth.

☐ **GILT EDGED:** A stronger than expected set of US Producer Prices wiped out early gains. Brokers say that the marketplace appears evenly divided about the prospect of a cut in interest rates following today's meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England. If that fails to produce a result there is always tomorrow's meeting of the Bundesbank. But a failure by the Germans to cut interest rates could result in a shake-out at the short end of the market.

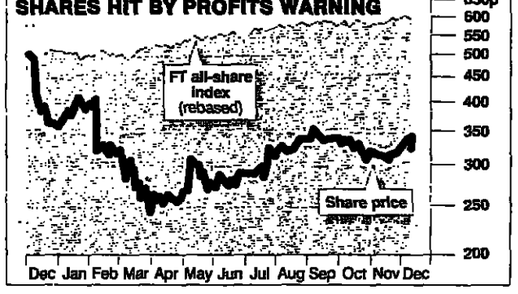
In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt firmed three ticks to £110^{13}/$_{32}$ in thin trading that saw just 29,000 contracts completed.

Conventional issues managed to regain some poise towards the close with benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2103 one-sixteenth better at £102^{15}/$_{16}$, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 closed unchanged at £104^{3}/$_{4}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares remained under pressure at midday, with the Dow Jones industrial average falling 7.23 points to 5177.09.

Cadbury Schweppes ended lower, 2½p off at 548¼p, along with the other shareholders of Camelot, the National Lottery operator. Cadbury also had to contend with a downgrading from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, which is believed to have lopped £10 million from its current-year estimate.

WASTE MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL: SHARES HIT BY PROFITS WARNING



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5177.09 (-7.23)
S&P Composite 618.39 (-1.13)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 19312.77 (+85.99)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9927.79 (+92.62)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 479.04 (-0.23)

Sydney:
AO 2215.1 (+10.2)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2289.77 (+16.95)

Singapore:
Straits 2154.27 (+8.38)

Brussels:
General 5262.07 (+106.31)

Paris:
CAC-40 1849.94 (-0.64)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 710.40 (+3.90)

London:

FT 30	2642.6 (-1.5)
FT 100	3654.9 (+2.8)
FT-SE Mid 250	3933.5 (-3.4)
FT-SE-A 350	1808.6 (+0.7)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1476.58 (+8.35)
FT A All-Share	1782.18 (+0.65)
FT Non Financials	1876.31 (+1.49)
FT Fixed Interest	114.77 (+0.24)
FT Govt Secs	95.89 (+0.03)
Bargains	27898
SEAQ Volume	707.9m
USM (Datastrm)	(91.11 (-0.66)
US$	1.5315 (-0.0025)
German Mark	2.2184 (+0.0028)
Exchange Index	82.6 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1838
£:SDR	1.0326
RPI	149.8 Oct (3.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	148.7 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Hi Inc C (100)	98		...
Arlon Props	9		...
BZW Eqts Tesco Elt	301		...
Benfield & Rea	103		...
CMG (290)	336	-	1
Cash Converters Intl	26		...
Cortworth (150)	149½	-	1½
Cox Insurance	110		...
East Surrey NV	448		...
Finsbury Tech (100)	102		...
Gardner (L)	130		...
Gearhse Group (200)	203		...
Jasmin	85	-	5
London Town	80		...
Martin Currie Jp	97½	+	1
Martin Currie Jp Wts	35*		...
National Grid (204)	211	+	1½
Peptide Thrptcs (200)	232		...
Pet City	360	+	5
Revelation Pice	100		...
Trocadero	40	-	1
Vero Group	270	-	1
Wilmington	62	-	1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Leis n/p (34)	7	...
Roxspur n/p (3)	½	...
TBI n/p (50)	3	...
The Tv Crp n/p (97)	6	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Goal Pet	89p (-21p)
Br Vita	216p (+14p)
Alba	282p (+15p)
Medeva	270p (+13p)
Enterprise	365p (+10p)
Regent Inns	617p (+11p)
Br Aerospace	788p (+11p)
Siebe	784p (+10p)

FALLS:

Waste Mgt Intl	323p (-23p)
Airflow Stream	265p (-18p)
Andrew Sykes	258p (-13p)
Vaux Group	252p (-12p)
Phonelink	225p (-10p)
David Smith	249p (-11p)
Laird	369p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 34

TEMPUS

Bears' picnic at Broadgate

THERE is a bear lurking somewhere in the Broadgate Centre near Liverpool Street station and yesterday it came out of hiding and gave British Land a not very friendly squeeze. After yesterday's dip, the shares stood at 368p, a small but important discount to British Land's £222 million open offer, priced at 370p. The property group's shares have been falling with the rest of the property sector for many months, along with expectations of rising yields and bearish sentiment over rents. British Land has suffered with the rest of the property leaders but its fall has been exacerbated by high gearing. The debt to equity ratio will exceed 130 per cent after consolidating Broadgate.

Gearing is a mixed blessing for property companies; it accentuates both the rise in fall in asset values. There are good reasons to be confident about British Land's portfolio which boasts assets of which over a fifth benefit from fixed rental uplifts. Yesterday, those assets threw up much of the rental growth in the half-year figures but despite those gains earnings per share fell and the dilution can be blamed on British Land's interest charge. While net rents were up 35 per cent, the property group's bill for borrowing was up 44 per cent over the previous year.

British Land has admitted that the current share issue will dilute net asset value but points out that a 1 per cent uplift in the portfolio will wipe out any dilution in NAV. However, those investors who sold British Land yesterday may be concerned as much about earnings dilution. In the half year, revenue earnings fell 9 per cent, a decline that is not critical but was enough to wake the Broadgate bear.

Cray

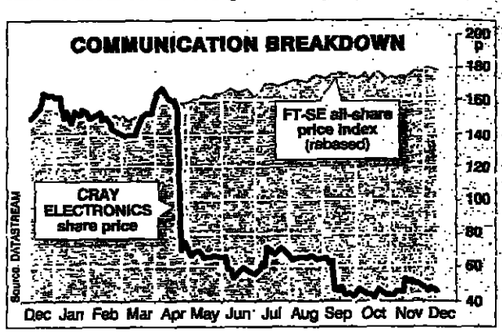
THERE was little in Cray's figures to encourage investors yesterday, and the message from the board gave no indication that the shares are anything but fairly valued after months of drift and despond.

Cray's share price halved after a profit warning in April, and in July the company announced that profits of £26 million in 1994 had been reduced to almost nil, but the management then announced changes aimed at restoring margin: reducing product lines and the outsourcing of manufacturing. However, on the strength of yesterday's figures, recovery will be slow.

Cray operates in a subsector of the electronics market that is dominated by US giants, and the British minnow finds it difficult to keep up. The industry is consolidating around five American players, and the carve-up leaves little room for others to compete effectively.

Cray should be able to reduce the deficit in the second half with a move into profit of about £7.5 million in the next financial year, suggesting a prospective price/earnings ratio of about 14. Excluding Data Communications, Cray is in reasonable shape and generating profitable returns, but, without signs that the restructuring of the core business has put it back on track, the shares will remain speculative. The new management believes that recovery will start this year, but its confidence will need the backing of profits.

COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN



Stakis

IF yesterday's slip in the shares had anything to do with doubts about the rapid expansion of Stakis, it cannot be due to yesterday's figures. Stakis boasts some of the best provincial hotel occupancy figures in the industry. Average occupancy rates of 72 per cent for provincial hotels over the past year are at the top of the range hotels and probably well ahead of Forte although the latter has been too coy to release these statistics.

The Forte bid battle has kept hotel shares bubbling but Stakis has been able to replace the hot air with something more substantial, namely growth in room rates, yield and margin.

The profits fall from casinos was expected and reflects a hot summer and the effect of the National Lottery, although Stakis, unlike some others in the gaming industry, is too sensible to load the blame on the Government.

Plans to invest another £23 million in hotels in the current year will be welcomed by investors as the occupancy gains in the current year should be followed by improvements in both room rates and yield. Tax, however, remains a drag on the company's growth; the rate is likely to increase from less than 10 per cent to 15 per cent by 1997, offsetting some of the advance in earnings.

Vaux

VAUX chairman Sir Paul Nicholson is fond of referring to his business as "snooze and booze", the snooze being Swallow Hotels and St Andrews Nursing Homes, the booze the company's pubs and brewery.

The mix has served the company well in the past but the evidence from yesterday's disappointing results is that investors can derive satisfaction from neither. On the surface, the hotel results look strong. Profits were at an all-time high, but if you compare the breakdown of the figures with rival Stakis, Vaux lags behind. Occupancy levels were over 4 per cent lower while the rate per roomwas £1.50 less. Growth prospects look poor, with the City anticipating that the division will reach cyclical maturity in just two years.

The booze side again performed badly. The company's tenant pub operations continue to feel the effects of underinvestment while brewing has suffered more than its rivals. Only the managed pubs put up a respectable showing with profits up 12 per cent. Despite the managements optimism, the company lacks the means to turn things around. There was a cash outflow for the second year running and dividend cover is weak at 1.9 times. Even at a discount to the sector, and with a price barely above its book value, its probably best to lay off Vaux.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	920-880	Mar	1022-1020
Mar	941-940	May	1037-1036
May	960-958	Jul	unq
Jul	979-977	Sep	—
Sep	998-997		
Dec	1010-1009		

Volume 4627

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	2196-2195	Sep	1725-1715
Mar	1855-1880	Nov	1715-1690
May	1785-1784	Jan	1720-1680
Jul	1736-1735		

Volume 5591

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	307.5-06.1
Spot	365 5	Dec	301 0-99 n
Mar	352.4-51.5	May	298.2-96.8
May	343.0-42.6	May	298.5-96.6
Aug	334 5-34 0		

Volume 895

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 11

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	108.78	117.49	120.66
(+/-)	+2.72	-1.43	-1.59
Eng/Wales:	108.14	118.22	119.68
(+/-)	+2.70	-1.67	-2.34
(%)	+13 0	+2.0	-20.0
Scotland:	105.88	114 35	128.31
(+/-)	+3.44	-1.18	+4.08
(%)	+9.0	-17 0	-9 0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.35	+0 30
Brent 15 day (Jan)	17.45	-0.30
Brent 15 day (Feb)	17.20	-0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	18.60	-0 30
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.35	-0.25

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas 15	B. 169 (-2)	O. 171 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	171 (-4)	173 (-4)
Non EEC 1H Jan	171 (-4)	173 (-4)
Non EEC 1H Feb	170 (n/c)	172 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	103 (+1)	106 (n/c)
Naphtha	159 (-2)	161 (-2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	166.75-67.00	Apr	156.50-56.75
Feb	163.25-63 75	May	154.50-55.00
Mar	159.50-59.75		Vol: 33083

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	17.47-17.48	Apr	16.72-16.80
Feb	17.18-17.19	May	n/a
Mar	16.94-16.95		Vol: 42449

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	123 80	Jan	114 30
Mar	125.70	Mar	116.00
May	127.70	May	117.15
Jul	129 70	Sep	109.50
Sep	112.25	Nov	111.65

Volume 872 Volume 48

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	270.0
Apr	260.0	261.5
May	unq	300.0

Volume 29

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Clf p/k)

Jan 115.00-115.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Dec 95	1650	1650	1650
Jan 96	1670	1650	1670
Feb 96	1655	1650	1650
Apr 96	1635	1620	1633
Vol 322 lots		Open Interest 4115	

Index 1616 +6

(Official) (Volume prev day)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — **Rudolf Wolff**

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2988.0-2989.0	2702.0-2703.0	1927550
Lead ($/tonne)	740.00-747.00	741.00-742.00	209900
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1048.0-1049.0	1072.0-1072.5	606575
Tin ($/tonne)	6440.0-6445.0	6435.0-6436.0	29454
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1647.0-1648.0	1661.0-1661.5	786725
Nickel ($/tonne)	9231.0-9232.0	8340.0-8345.0	55266

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Dec 95	3671.0	3674.0	3645.0	3652.0	16287
Previous open interest: 83010	Mar 96	3695.0	3697.0	3670.0	3676.0	10377
FT-SE 250	Dec 95				3935.0	0
Previous open interest: 3656	Mar 96				3985.0	0
Three Month Sterling	Dec 95	93.51	93.52	93.50	93.51	6454
Previous open interest: 405940	Mar 96	93.80	93.82	93 78	93.80	9083
	Jun 96	93.92	93.93	93.90	93 92	5492
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec 95				94.22	0
Previous open interest: 110	Mar 96				94.57	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 95	96 10	96.11	96 08	96.08	23623
Previous open interest: 884385	Mar 96	96.37	96.39	96.36	96.37	19284
Long Gilt	Dec 95	110-30	111-01	110-27	110-29	2391
Previous open interest: 151200	Mar 96	110-13	110-20	110-04	110-13	29877
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	122.25	122.26	122.06	122.06	1322
	Jun 96				120 bl	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 96	98.72	98.85	98.67	98.67	77544
Previous open interest: 206460	Jun 96	98 20	98.20	98.20	98.04	6
Three month ECU	Dec 95	94.60	94.63	94 61	94.61	865
Previous open interest: 21431	Mar 96	94.84	94 85	94.82	94.83	1007
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 95	97 90	97 91	97 88	97.91	3113
Previous open interest: 54145	Mar 96	98.11	98.13	98.11	98 12	3519
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 96	106.03	106.45	105.88	106.29	28702
Previous open interest: 48050	Jun 96	105.90	105.90	105.90	105 89	675

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6% Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: Overnight high: 7 Low 6½ Week fixed. 6^{15}/$_{16}$

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6^{3}/$_{4}$; 3 mth 6^{11}/$_{16}$. Sell: 2 mth 6^{5}/$_{8}$; 3 mth: 6^{3}/$_{4}$.

Overnight: open 6½, close 6½.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6^{11}/$_{16}$-6^{5}/$_{8}$	6^{11}/$_{16}$-6^{5}/$_{8}$	6^{3}/$_{4}$-6^{7}/$_{8}$	6^{13}/$_{16}$-6^{15}/$_{16}$	
Sterling Money Rates:	6^{5}/$_{8}$-6^{1}/$_{2}$	6^{5}/$_{8}$-6^{1}/$_{2}$	6^{11}/$_{16}$-6^{5}/$_{8}$	6^{3}/$_{4}$-6^{5}/$_{8}$	6^{7}/$_{8}$-6^{3}/$_{4}$
Interbank:	6^{5}/$_{8}$-6^{1}/$_{2}$	6^{5}/$_{8}$-6^{1}/$_{2}$	6^{11}/$_{16}$-6^{5}/$_{8}$	6^{3}/$_{4}$-6^{5}/$_{8}$	6^{7}/$_{8}$-6^{3}/$_{4}$
Local Authority Deps:	6^{7}/$_{8}$	n/a	6^{7}/$_{8}$	6^{3}/$_{4}$	6^{3}/$_{4}$
Sterling CDs:	6^{5}/$_{8}$-6^{1}/$_{2}$	6^{11}/$_{16}$-6^{5}/$_{8}$	6^{11}/$_{16}$-6^{5}/$_{8}$	6^{11}/$_{16}$-6^{5}/$_{8}$	6^{13}/$_{16}$-6^{7}/$_{8}$
Dollar CDs:	5.78	n/a	5.65	5.52	5.41
Building Society CDs:	6^{5}/$_{8}$-6^{1}/$_{2}$	6^{5}/$_{8}$-6^{1}/$_{2}$	6^{11}/$_{16}$-6^{5}/$_{8}$	6^{3}/$_{4}$-6^{5}/$_{8}$	6^{13}/$_{16}$-6^{7}/$_{8}$

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5^{11}/$_{16}$-5^{5}/$_{8}$	5^{11}/$_{16}$-5^{5}/$_{8}$	5^{11}/$_{16}$-5^{5}/$_{8}$	5¾-5⅝	5¼-4⅝
Deutschemark:	4¼-3¾	4¼-4⅛	4-3¾	3¾-3½	4¼-3¾
French Franc:	5¾-5½	5¾-5½	5¾-5½	5¾-5½	5¾-4½
Swiss Franc:	2½-2	2½-2⅜	2½-2	2-1½	2½-1½
Yen:	½-¼	½-¼	½-¼	½-¼	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $388.20-388.50 Close: $388.15-388.65 High: $389.10-389.60
Low: $387.90-388.40 AM: $388.45 PM: $388.80

Krugerrand: $388.00-390 00 (£252.50-254.50)

Platinum: $416.00 (£271.55) **Silver:** $5.22 (£3.405) **Palladium:** $136.00 (£88.75)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 12	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4775-2.4864	2.4775-2.4808	½-pr	1¼-1¾pr
Brussels	45.490-45.590	45.490-45.590	12-9pr	31-26pr
Copenhagen	8.5760-8.6170	8.5800-8.6020	1¼-¼pr	3¼-2¾pr
Dublin	0.9670-0.9708	0.9675-0.9701	9-6pr	23-18pr
Frankfurt	2.2137-2.2215	2.2137-2.2167	½-¼pr	1¼-1¼pr
Lisbon	232.27-233.39	232.27-232.99	38-65ds	122-166ds
Madrid	188.38-189.12	188.38-188.67	47-57ds	136-153ds
Milan	2441.7-2453.0	2441.7-2445.7	8-0ds	25-3ds
Montreal	2.1045-2.1205	2.1045-2.1075	0.13-0.04pr	0.21-0.09pr
New York	1.5286-1.5352	1.5280-1.5290	0.10-0.08pr	0.27-0.24pr
Oslo	9.7710-9.8010	9.7710-9.7860	½-¼pr	2¼-2pr
Paris	7.6370-7.6620	7.6470-7.6510	½-¼pr	1¾-1¼pr
Stockholm	10.291-10.363	10.290-10.313	¼-⅛ds	½-⅜ds
Tokyo	155.6-156.13	155.8-155.83	1-0pr	2¼-2¼pr
Vienna	15.571-15.698	15.571-15.598	¼-¼pr	1-¾pr
Zurich	1.7961-1.8024	1.7961-1.7989	½-¼pr	2-1½pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3508-1.3517
Austria	10.18-10.19
Belgium (Com)	29.74-29.78
Canada	1.3778-1.3783
Denmark	5.6140-5.6160
France	4.9935-4.9945
Germany	1.4485-1.4490
Hong Kong	7.7340-7.7350
Ireland	1.5800-1.5820
Italy	1598.40-1599.90
Japan	101.70-101.80
Malaysia	2.5405-2.5415
Netherlands	1.6215-1.6230
Norway	6.3935-6.3955
Portugal	151.99-152.09
Singapore	1.4145-1.4155
Spain	123.34-123.39
Sweden	6.7108-6.7208
Switzerland	1.1742-1.1752

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	1.5317-1.5343
Australia dollar	2.0661-2.0702
Bahrain dinar	0.5720-0.5840
Brazil real	1.4862-1.4903
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.6900-0.7090
Finland markka	6.6100-6.7260
Greece drachma	362.50-369.50
Hong Kong dollar	11.8485-11.8978
India rupee	52.95-53.91
Indonesia rupiah	3470.00-3538.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4550-0.4650
Malaysia ringgit	3.8930-3.8961
New Zealand dollar	2.3715-2.3756
Pakistan rupee	52.38 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5225-5.6465
Singapore dollar	2.1670-2.1700
S Africa rand (com)	5.5760-5.6780
U A E dirham	5.5725-5.6965

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	238	Lloyds Bk	4,500
ASDA Gp	9,900	Lon Elect	1,100
Abbey Ntl	3,800	Marks Spr	3,400
Allied Dom	3,600	Mid Elec	62
Argyll Gp	3,200	NatWst Bk	3,300
Arjo Wiggins	643	Nat Grid	11,000
AB Foods	332	Nat Power	1,700
BAA	3,000	NW Water	487
BAT Inds	5,100	P & O	1,000
BOC	515	Pearson	1,900
BP	9,400	PowerGen	1,600
BSkyB	973	Prudential	1,200
BTR	18,000	REXAM	1,600
BT	11,000	RMC	1,500
Bk of Scot	3,800	RTZ	1,100
Barclays	2,100	Rank Org	1,600
Bass	3,200	Reckitt Col	388
Blue Circle	2,000	Redland	735
Boots	709	Reed Intl	1,700
Bae	2,600	Rentokil	1,000
BA	1,500	Reuters	6,200
Brit Gas	14,000	Rolls Royce	4,900
Brit Steel	13,000	Royal Ins	1,400
Burmah Cstl	684	Ryl Bk Scot	1,100
Cable Wire	3,300	Sainsbury	1,900
Cadbury	1,600	Schroders	181
Carlton Cms	800	Scot & New	3,400
Cm Union	1,500	Scot Power	1,600
Cookson	1,800	Sears	2,500
Courtaulds	932	Severn Trent	1,300
De La Rue	759	Shell Trans	5,700
Enterpr Oil	3,200	Siebe	650
Forte	4,800	SmKl Bch	3,200
GKN	806	Smith Nph	2,700
GRE	1,500	Sthern Elec	238
GUS	4,400	Std Chartd	2,900
Gen Acc	816	Sun Alliance	2,700
Gen Elec	3,600	TI Gp	1,200
Glaxo Well	7,500	TSB	2,900
Granada	1,600	Tate & Lyle	1,700
Grand Met	8,100	Tesco	2,900
Guinness	6,900	Thames W	863
HSBC	2,500	Thrn EMI	763
Hanson	13,000	Tomkins	2,300
ICI	488	Unilever	937
Kingfisher	2,700	Vodafone	13,000
LASMO	2,900	Whitbread	1,600
Ladbroke	805	Wllms Hld	834
Land Secs	1,700	Wolseley	403
Legal & Gn	1,400	Zeneca	1,600

WALL STREET

	Dec 12 midday	Dec 11 close
AMP Inc	40¾	40
AMR Corp	76½	77½
AT & T	65⅝	65½
Abbott Labs	42	41⅝
Advanced Micro	15⅞	16
Aetna Life	71½	71½
Ahmanson (HF)	26½	26½
Air Prod & Chem	55⅝	55⅝
Airtouch Comm	27¾	28
Alberto-Culver B	35½	35¾
Albertson's	33¾	33¾
Alcan Aluminm	32	31½
Alco Standard	43½	43¾
Allied Signal	48¼	49⅜
Alum Co of Am	55	54½
Amax Gold Inc	7½	7¾
Amerada Hess	50¾	50¾
Amer Brands	44½	44¾
Amer El Power	38¼	38½
Amer Express	42¾	43
Amer Genl Corp	33½	33¾
Amer Home Pr	96	95¾
Amer Intl	91½	91½
Amer Stores	27½	28½
Amer Standard	31½	30¾
Ameritech	58⅜	57¾
Amoco	71½	71½
Anheuser-Busch	68⅞	69
Apple Computer	38½	38¾
Archer Daniels	17½	17½
Armco	5⅜	5½
Armstrong Wrld	63⅝	63¾
Asarco	35½	35¾
Ashland Oil	35½	35¾
Atl Richfield	113¾	114½
Auto Data Pro	78½	79½
Avery Dennison	48½	48
Avon Products	70¾	70¾
Baker Hughes	25½	25½
Baltim Gas & El	27	26¾
Banc One	39⅝	39¾
BankAmerica	67½	67
Bank of NY	45¾	46½
Bankers Tr NY	68	67¾
Barnett Banks	60¾	60¾
Bausch & Lomb	37	37
Baxter Intl	41¾	41
Bectn Dickinsn	75½	74¾
Bell Atlantic	66½	66½
Bell Industries	22½	22½
Bellsouth	41½	41½
Black & Decker	35½	35½
Block (H&R)	44	44½
Boeing	73½	72¾
Boise Cascade	32¾	34½
Bristol Myrs Sq	84½	84¾
Browning Ferris	31½	31½
Brunswick	22	21½
Burlington Nthn	77½	78½
CNA Financial	114¾	114¾
CPC Intl	70¾	70¾
CSX	86¾	86
Campbell Soup	59¾	59
Can Pacific	18¾	18½
Cptl Cities ABC	124½	125¾
Carolina Pwr	33½	33½
Caterpillar	61½	61½
Central & SW	27½	27½
Champion Intl	41½	42¾
Chase Manhat	60¾	61½
Chemical Bk	59¾	60
Chevron Corp	53	52¾
Chrysler	54	54
Chubb Corp	69½	69¾
Ciena Corp	109½	109¾
Cincorp	66½	67½
Cinrcx	77	77¾
Cintas Corp	35½	35¾
Coca Cola	79¾	79¾
Colgate-Palmolive	74½	74½
Columbia Gas	43¾	43¾
ColumbiaHCA	51¾	52¾
Compaq Comp	40¾	40

Jobless level is here to stay despite what the figures say

Experts believe that unemployment will stick at about the two million mark, writes **Philip Bassett**

The Government's announcement this morning of the latest unemployment figures will be keenly examined not only to see how many people are now out of work and claiming benefit, but whether the small rise in unemployment reported last month has disappeared.

Whitehall officials are so confident that last month's increase of 200 in seasonally-adjusted claimant unemployment will have gone from the records that they went so far as to describe them as "meaningless". They say that high seasonal factors tend to distort the figures for January, July and October, the first involving temporary Christmas workers, the last two students.

While seasonal adjustment of figures to remove such distortions leaves them only as good as the statistical process which carries it out — officials are still working on improvements to the current computer format — such an expected flip to last month's figures does have a recent precedent.

A small rise in unemployment in July became a small fall of 200 when the seasonal information drawn from the next month's figures was retrospectively applied, a process which is expected to happen again tomorrow, leaving unemployment at more than 2.2 million, or about 8 per cent of the UK workforce.

But behind all this statistical juggling, what is happening to unemployment now? Is the slowdown in Britain's economy, which business fears may become a downturn, hitting the long fall in unemployment? The latter, after suitable seasonal readjustments, has continued unbroken since December 1992? "Unemployment is now either on a very modest downward trend, or we are on a plateau," says Dr John Philpott, director of the independent Employment Policy Institute, "and a plateau is consistent with all the other data on the economy".

Unemployment is still a vital factor in calculating the strength of the economy. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, will have the latest figures in front of them tomorrow, together with the new retail sales figures and yesterday's marginally-improved producer price numbers, when they meet to examine whether to cut interest rates.

Equally, unemployment is still an emotive issue for the public. Despite the claim by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, that job insecurity is a "state of mind", the most recent Mori opinion poll, published on the day of Mr Clarke's Budget, put it as by far the most important issue facing Britain.

It was cited by 52 per cent of those polled, well ahead of the National Health Service at 39 per cent, and of the economy itself, which was in fifth place with 19 per cent.

Whitehall statisticians still see the trend in unemployment as falling at between 10,000 and 15,000 a month. So-called City "forecasts" of each month's change in the figures do little more than to ape such thinking, and still manage usually to get it wholly incorrect. Last month's 200 rise, for instance, came against City "expectations" of a 10,000 drop. For what little it is worth, the market prediction is for a 5,000 fall tomorrow.

The accompanying graphic shows what has been happening to unemployment around Britain, with above average falls in the West Midlands, Scotland, the North West and the South East, where the 65,400 drop over the past year has on its own accounted for more than a third of the total fall in UK unemployment.

The most useful guide is probably to set, as the main chart does, the monthly changes in unemployment against the three-month trend. That seems to indicate a steady decline in the fall in unemployment until the middle of this year and a rather more uneven pattern since then.

> For what little it is worth, the market prediction is for a 5,000 fall tomorrow

Interpretation is difficult and is not helped by the fact that the Government has largely deserted this field since the scrapping of the Department of Employment last summer. The job figures have gone over to the Central Statistical Office (CSO), with the result that the political and economic interpretation once attached to them by the Government has been removed by the statistically-pure CSO. While the Government's view may well not have been right, it was at least a benchmark against which other interpretations could be tested.

Labour market flexibility may be at least part of the answer. John Cridland, human resources director at the CBI, suggests: "We are seeing the easy in, easy out syndrome. With more flexible labour markets, it surprised people that unemployment started to fall very quickly at an early stage in the recovery. With the current pause in growth, which is what we think it is rather than a downturn, the reductions in unemployment are drying up more quickly."

Having easily taken on more temporary and part-time workers, employers are now just as easily kicking them out as economic growth pauses. Business leaders will try to work out their own explanation for current jobless trends when the CBI's employment policy committee meets on Thursday.

For the unions, Ian Brinkley, a TUC economist, says that while recent unemployment figures have been "unstable", it is clear that "the labour market recovery has almost halted". The fall in unemployment, he says, has "slowed significantly" since the beginning of the year.

As well as the monthly claimant count figures, the Government will tomorrow publish the latest quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS), which measures unemployment differently — by surveying a sample of 60,000 households rather than totting up those successfully claiming benefit for being out of work. A CSO working party is expected in the new year to endorse the case for the Government moving to a monthly LFS to measure unemployment in addition to the claimant count.

LFS figures show both claimant and non-claimant unemployed, as the graph sets out. For the most recent period, up to August, the LFS data indicates some odd patterns: claimant unemployment among men is not only falling, but accounted for almost all the overall drop in unemployment. Yet male non-claimant unemployment is rising — up 42,000 in the quarter.

Political opponents of the Government, whose suspicions about the statistical credibility of the unemployment figures remain unabated, tend to be drawn to so-called "administrative" explanations for unemployment changes, particularly at economic turning-points.

The thinking is that falls in the number of unemployed tend to be caused not by people moving into jobs, but by tougher application of benefit criteria against a background of tight public spending. Such suspicions tend to be raised, too, by the statistical readjustment of LFS back data, a move sharply criticised by such bodies as the independent Unemployment Unit pressure group.

Published last week, the changes were aimed at taking into full account the 1991 census information and had the effect of boosting employment estimates by an average 141,000, cutting back on the number of people economically active by 73,000, and pushing up the LFS unemployment figures by about 0.9 per cent, or as many as 21,000.

Whether or not the recent rise in the number of men out of work but not claiming benefit reflects any administrative changes is not clear. The bumpy pattern of two-way monthly claimant flows offers few clues.

Employment analysts suggest changes in non-claimant unemployment often tends to reflect economic activity rates, as people enter or re-enter the labour market and start looking for work, but don't immediately find it, and so begin showing up in the LFS self-declaration figures.

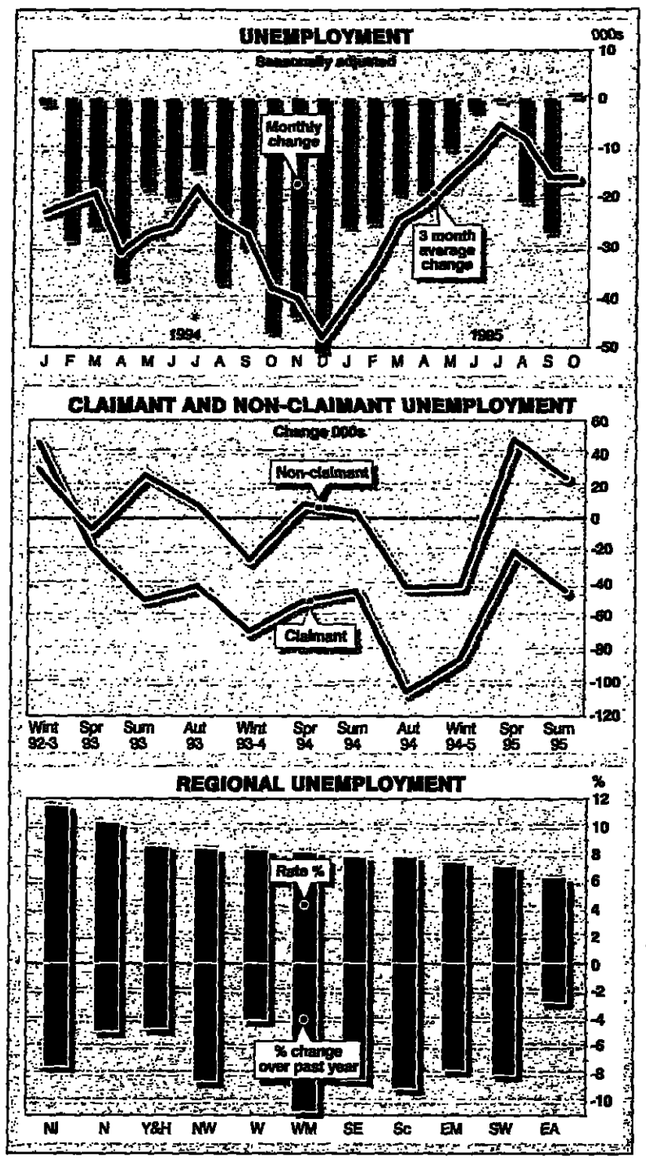
Such explanations may be even more difficult to gauge in the future, given the net impact of the looming changes to the benefit system.

The Government's new but delayed Jobseekers' Allowance, which will next year replace the current dole, is expected to push the claimant count figures down, while the changes to sickness and invalidity benefit, with much tougher tests for claimants, are thought likely to push the unemployment figures up.

Looking further ahead is even more problematic. In its latest economic forecast, the CBI sees unemployment remaining above two million until at least the end of 1997, while the longer-term forecasts from the Institute for Employment Research at Warwick University see it remaining at that level until the end of the decade.

Led by John Major, ministers state publicly that unemployment at such levels is still too high, though the general feeling was that the Budget came up with precious few measures likely to help to provide more jobs. An incoming Labour government would clearly make employment its top priority.

Job experts remain sceptical of political initiatives, believing instead that a range of economic and social factors are now likely to leave unemployment permanently around the two million mark. So while tomorrow's figures may see further short-term changes, the deep and stubborn persistence of unemployment as a key feature and failing of the UK labour market is likely to be sustained.





Lessons from the decline and rise of the US economy

It is common knowledge that the US economy is at present stuttering to something near a halt. Output is falling, stocks rising, there is a monetary slowdown, near-zero inflation and Christmas sales have started weak. All this is strongly confirmed by the most recent (mainly October) figures, and the Fed — "way behind the curve", as one commentator summed it up — is widely held to blame.

The blamers say the Fed has been dithering because of the political stand-off over the budget, which ought not to be Fed business at all; but time has run out, and rates will be cut, probably by a full half point, on December 19.

Three-quarters of all Wall Street analysts stand behind this prognosis, and the near-certainty of falling rates has fuelled the Dow Jones average to one record after another. All that stands between us and this happy outcome are a handful of analysts — the inflation fogeys, according to the majority — and consumers, whose confidence is rising. And, to judge by recent speeches, the Governors of the Federal Reserve. Even Alan Blinder, generally regarded as President Clinton's nominee for growth, has detected continued buoyancy in the economy, and warned the markets not to take a cut for granted.

> The moral would appear to be not to cut interest rates, but to stop reading monthly statistics

Governor Phillips forecast moderate growth, but warned of labour market tightness; Chicago Fed president Moskow, who has a policy vote, endorsed the forecast, but not the warning. Only Governor Yellen seemed to give ambiguous support to the consensus; but Wall Street, on a roll, has so far shrugged off the warnings.

Yet look a little beyond the most recent figures, as Robert Brusca, of Nikko, does, and the picture begins to look startlingly different. The November employment report, which boosted the bond market on Monday, is an example. It showed a 32,000 drop in manufacturing employment, a 0.4 per cent fall in hours worked and a 0.1 per cent fall in hourly earnings.

So what more could a deflationist want? Some consistency, for a start: if you look at the three months to November compared with the previous three months, earnings are rising at a 3.5 per cent annual rate (about 2 per cent above productivity), and hours worked at a 3.1 per cent rate. And while manufacturing employment has indeed been falling right through the year, service jobs are growing much faster: a monthly average of 147,000, and 205,000 in November itself.

Is employment an oddity? No; the picture for goods orders is even more striking. Orders were off 0.3 per cent in October, but up no less than 15.4 per cent at an annual rate on the three-month comparison. In the same period, stocks rose only at a 5.2 per cent annual rate: a rise in work in progress?

The same false warnings appear everywhere. The 1.5 per cent monthly fall in capital goods orders looks forbidding; but not in the context of an 18.8 per cent growth rate on the three-month measure. This is a pause at the top — or faulty seasonal adjustment. A few figures are genuinely restrained, though not frightening. The house market may indeed by slowing down after an intoxicating summer recovery; and some non-durables, especially textiles, are in long-term decline as services grow. But that is about all. The moral would appear to be not to cut interest rates, but to stop reading monthly statistics.

The true picture which emerges still looks puzzling at first sight. If manufacturing orders are healthy, why has the sector shed nearly a quarter of a million jobs this year? If consumers are still spending — notably on cars, even without last year's price cuts, and the more expensive light trucks — why are investment goods rather than consumer goods showing the real growth? The answer is in one acronym: NAFTA.

Hemispheric free trade is indeed exporting jobs, just as the unions feared; but the US is providing the tools and the software. Demand may be rather too dependent on the wealth illusions created on Wall Street; but on the whole, the picture is of a country enjoying a remarkable, smooth structural tranformation.

Please copy.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

And then there were three

CHRISTMAS must just be around the corner — there are only three wise men left to advise the Chancellor. As the letter in *The Times* today from Messrs Tim Congdon, Gavyn Davies and Patrick Minford reminds us, Kenneth Clarke is down to his last three, having now lost four of those handed on by Norman Lamont. What is more, he does not seem to care. Andrew Sentance, one of the originals, ruled himself out nearly two years ago when he left the Confederation of British Industry but has not been replaced. And the Chancellor does not seem to be hurrying over the list of suggestions from Alan Budd, the Treasury's chief economic adviser, Wynn Godley, the civilised wild man of Cambridge, and David Currie, from the Treasury's London Business preparatory school, dropped out on a rota basis after the pre-Budget forecasts and Andrew Britton has quit forecasting at the National Institute to do a big report on unemployment. Even their leaving party has been put off until the new year because the Chancellor is too busy. They might then be able to shake hands with successors, who could include Kate Barker of the Confederation of British Industry, "Professor" Roger Bootle or Bill Martin from the City and, yes, that man Sentance again. He has now taken over as head of the London Business School Forecasting Centre.

Hatchet man

RICHARD WEBB, the BZW man who helped Barclays to sort out the problems in its American operation but wanted to return to the UK, has been found a job. The position of deputy chief executive of European retail banking has been created for him, and he will start the new role early next year. Mr Webb's last job involved assisting Barclays in deciding which bits of the American business to keep and which to dispose of. Could this new role involve more of the same?



Keeping busy

SIR BRIAN SHAW is retiring as chairman of ANZ Grindlays Bank this month after eight years in the job and 18 years as a director. He will concentrate on his new portfolio of jobs which include being chairman of the Automobile Association and being chairman of the Port of London Authority. Don Mercer, his deputy, takes over as chairman next month.

Inside job

WHO needs to rob banks when you can go straight to the source of all cash itself — the Mint, or the Bureau of Engraving and Printing as it is quaintly known in the United States. Someone has just made off with $20,000 in crackling new notes, and that is after $40,000 went walkabout two weeks ago. The Treasury Department — currently locked in a battle in Congress to cut the United States budget deficit — is investigating this new drain on the national resources. It had better move fast before there is a repeat of the $1.6 million theft from the Bureau 18 months ago by one of its own employees.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mis-timed selling

From Mrs O. D. T. Vidal

Sir, I read with interest Keith Oates's letter in the Business section of *The Times* ("St Michael's future secure", November 24).

I wondered just how secure it was after a visit to our local Marks & Spencer store in Lyon, France, where they are selling hot cross buns (ie, Good Friday buns) three weeks before Christmas (Christ's birthday).

Yours faithfully,
O. D. T VIDAL,
59 Route de Paris,
69260 Charbonnières-les-Bains, France.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be faxed on 0171-782 5112.

Confusion over tax on pensions

From Mr John Mendes

Sir, I have an occupational pension, with tax deducted under a pay code, and a self-funded retirement pension from a scheme which was fully approved by the Inland Revenue and also has tax deducted at source.

But this latter pension cannot have tax deducted under a pay code because, according to the Revenue, it is not a personal pension, but an ex-retirement annuity contract. This means that I am considerably overtaxed every month and wait until June of the following financial year for a refund.

There must be many future pensioners, who will face life on a reduced income with every pound important to meet day-to-day living costs, unaware of this technical difference. Put bluntly, it means that their monthly pension will not be as much as they have been led to expect.

It is just not good enough to say that they will be refunded the following year. Anybody who says that has never lived on a tight monthly income. And as the present Government wants more citizens to fund their own pensions rather than relying on the state, it should look at this situation in which a personal pension is not necessarily a personal pension.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MENDES
1 Lower Street,
Cavendish,
Suffolk.

Sign of freedom

From Mr Alan Toop

Sir, I do not understand why BT's formation of a European works council (EWC) should be seen as a "blow to the Government's opt-out from the EU social chapter" (Business, December 8).

What the opt-out preserves is a British company's freedom to make whatever voluntary arrangements seem best. BT has used this freedom to decide in favour of an EWC. Fine, but that's no argument for imposing EWCs on other companies, whose different situations may require different arrangements.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN TOOP,
The Sales Machine,
5 Dolphin Square,
Edensor Road, W4.

Tax liability on Grid shares

From Brigadier H. F. Everard

Sir, Thousands of shareholders with the Regional Electricity Companies (Rec) are to be unjustly penalised by the Inland Revenue. The distribution of National Grid Group (NGG) shares to Rec shareholders is to be treated as if it were a cash dividend to the value of the quoted NGG share price as at December 11, 1995. As such, a tax liability will arise. This ignores the fact that because the NGG is currently part of the Rec's assets, there will be a significant and compensating fall in the Rec share price at the time of the distribution. Thus the true value of the NGG shares to the shareholders will be much less than their face value. It is even conceivable that the combined share prices of the NGG and REC shares after distribution, could be less than the Rec share price pre-distribution: in this case the shareholders will be paying tax on a loss! I consider it would be more equitable were the tax liability to be based on a formula in which the original value of the Rec shares, ie that price obtaining before distribution, is deducted from the combined value of the NGG and Rec shares post-distribution. The result would represent the net value of the distribution to the Rec shareholders and a fair figure on which to base the tax liability.

Yours faithfully,
H. F. EVERARD
Flat 6,
33 Cleveland Square, W2.

Turbulent time

From Thomas and Mary Clark

Sir, Our *Little Oxford Dictionary* defines Si(r) Rocco as: "Hot, moist, oppressive wind reaching Italy". Hopefully, not easily blown off course by a hostile puff of wind from Granada.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS AND MARY CLARK,
5 The Anchorage,
157 Mudeford,
Christchurch, Dorset.

SHAFTESBURY PLC

Results for the year ended 30th September 1995

	1995	1994	Increase
• Profit Before Taxation	£3.65m	£2.35m	+55%
• Earnings per Share	7.5p	5.8p	+29%
• Total Dividends per Share	1.5p	1.0p	+50%
• Shareholders' Funds	£54.17m	£48.65m	+11%

"Our performance this year owes much to our strategy of focusing our activities in busy retail and tourist locations in London's West End. I am pleased to report further significant acquisitions during the year which extend our property investments in this unique area. I am confident that, by concentrating our activities in locations where we have considerable experience and local knowledge, we will continue to produce above average growth in income and capital values."

Peter L. Levy
Chairman

Copies of the 1995 Annual Report can be obtained from The Secretary, Shaftesbury PLC, Pegasus House, 37/43 Sackville Street, London W1X 2DL (tel: 0171 333 8118).

Shake-up in sector forecast by Stakis

BY NICK SUTTON

DAVID MICHELS, chief executive of Stakis, the hotels and casinos group, yesterday predicted gradual consolidation within the industry in the wake of Granada's bid for Forte.

Announcing Stakis financial results for the year to October 1, Mr Michels, former deputy chief executive of Hilton UK, stated his belief that by the turn of the century there would be only six major hotel groups in Britain.

Growth at Stakis over the past year continued, with turnover rising 18.9 per cent to £173.4 million (£145.9 million). The company also maintained its development programme, purchasing or building six hotels and two casinos across Britain at a cost of £36.2 million, and planning a further £33.4 million capital expenditure during the current year.

Although the casino division, which accounts for about one third of the company's turnover, saw a downturn in pre-tax profits from £12.5 million to £11.7 million, group profits were boosted by a strong performance in the hotels division. Overall pre-tax profits rose to £25.8 million (£20.2 million).

Mr Michels blamed the National Lottery for some of the fall in casino profits, but predicted a promising future as Stakis continued to improve casinos.

He hoped that the Government would issue a White Paper in the new year to reduce the current tight regulation.

Earnings per share rose 15 per cent to 4.93p (4.27p), and the announcement of a final dividend of 1.0p, payable on April 12, raised the total dividend 13 per cent to 1.75p (1.55p).

The results failed to meet City expectations, however, and the shares closed down 3p at 79p.

Tempus, page 28

ANDRÉ CAMARA



Alec Daly, the new chairman of Cray Communications, flanked by Jon Richards, left, chief executive, and Roger Dye, finance director.

Newly arrived deputy pressed into top slot at troubled Cray

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

ROGER HOLLAND, chairman of Cray Electronics, the troubled data communications company, stepped down on Monday night and was replaced by his newly appointed deputy, Alec Daly.

Mr Holland has faced criticism over Cray's poor performance. But Jon Richards, the chief executive, said that there was no boardroom pressure for him to step down, and the decision was Mr Holland's. He will stay on as a non-executive director.

The changes were announced as Cray revealed that profits had slumped from £10.1 million in the first half of last year to losses of £14.6 million in the six months to October 31. As a result of its losses, Cray made a 6.3p loss per share and has waived its interim dividend payment — last time it made a first-half payment of 1p. Group turnover fell from £135 million to £129 million.

Mr Richards said: "When the business is profitable then the dividend stream will resume." Analysts are forecasting a reduced loss in the second half and a return to profitability next year.

Cray's losses followed a warning to shareholders in September and broadly met City expectations. The shares rose ½p to 47½p. Analysts expressed relief that the interim results did not contain any unpleasant surprises.

The main reasons for the losses were a £9.3 million exceptional cost of stock write-down, restructuring and redundancies in Cray Communications. The business lost 130 jobs, taking its staffing down to 1,500 and the group's headcount down to 3,400. Mr Richards said there were no plans for further cuts, but they could not be ruled out.

Mr Richards said that the benefits of the recovery programme would be seen in the second half. Cray Communications is now focusing on six product areas and has cut its research and development spending from £18 million to £15 million this year. Older products would still be supported, he said.

Mr Richards said that although turnover in Cray Communications was 10 per cent lower than in the same period last year, it improved by £2 million on the second half to £74 million, when "normally the second half is stronger". Orders were also ahead.

Mr Richards moved to take direct control of Cray Communications, in addition to his group role, last December. This was beginning to pay off, he said, as a more open atmosphere was developing, with staff encouraged to raise issues with management.

Over the past year two-thirds of the senior management has changed, with 13 new appointments, including a new finance director, Roger Dye formerly of Domino, the inkjet printing company.

Mr Richards said: "Data communications is an exciting business area. There is a job to be done. Morale in the business is much better. We are trying to position the business to do better in the future."

Pillar ahead despite loss on sale of shopping centre

BY CARL MORTISHED

PILLAR Property Investments has suffered a loss against book value on the sale of Tower Ramparts, a shopping centre in Ipswich. The property group made a pre-tax profit of £1.1 million during the half year to September 30 after taking a loss of £852,000 on the disposal. The result compared with a profit of £34,000 in the period last year.

The property was acquired in 1991 for £16.5 million and the sale contributed a surplus of £4.8 million to Pillar's balance sheet. Patrick Vaughan, chief executive, said the loss represented the deficit between the price on disposal and the valuation of the property in March. Mr Vaughan indicated that Pillar's shopping centres and retail parks had seen good rental growth but Tower Ramparts had suffered the loss of tenants.



Vaughan: rental growth

Pillar is paying its first interim dividend, a distribution of 1.5p per share. Earnings per share were 1p for the half year but the company indicated that the surplus on the sale of Tower Ramparts, plus the trading profit, more than covered the dividend.

In conjunction with General Electric Pension Trust, Pillar has acquired Cannon Bridge, the headquarters of the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe), for £64 million. Pillar said yesterday that Liffe's decision to take space in the Stock Exchange building did not affect its lease at Cannon Bridge.

Labour backs plans to tax company parking spaces

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a £4 billion-a-year tax on companies' staff car parking spaces were given enthusiastic backing by Labour yesterday.

The proposals, outlined in a report from the lobby group Transport 2000 on reducing commuting by car, would involve a £500-a-year levy on each of Britain's estimated three million company parking spaces.

The money raised would be handed back to business in the form of a rebate against the uniform business rate, with smaller companies receiving the bulk of the hand out, according to the proposals. As an example, the report suggested that the first 100 sq ft of a business's premises could be rate-free while the next 200 sq ft would pay only a small proportion of the normal rate.

Under the current business rate system car parking is not taxed in its own right but included as a value increase to a business's "useable space".

The report, *Moving Together: Policies to Cut Car Commuting*, said that the tax could be phased in over five years, starting at £2 per week per space, raising £800 million a year and rising to £10 per space or £4 billion a year.

The report predicted that the tax would provide a incentive for firms to encourage employees to leave their cars at home. The tax would eventually wither away as company car parks were reduced in size or abandoned altogether.

"Overall the aim is to have zero impact on business costs and employee benefits, while encouraging safer, healthier, and more environmentally friendly modes of travel in a positive and very direct way," the report concluded.

Graham Allen, a Labour transport spokesman, said the ideas were "very attractive indeed" and that he would push hard for them to be adopted as official policy.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Travis Perkins bids £14.1m for BMSS

TRAVIS PERKINS, the builder's merchant, is making a £14.1 million recommended cash offer for BMSS, which also supplies materials for the building industry. Travis is offering 153p per share and has already received acceptances from BMSS directors and their family trusts in respect of about 70 per cent of the company's equity. BMSS shares rose to 150p from 119p yesterday.

Travis Perkins has a national network of 217 branches. The company said that BMSS, which trades from 26 branches, was complementary and would strengthen its presence in the West Midlands, Manchester and Wales. In the year to January 3, BMSS earned pre-tax profits of £710,000 on turnover of £18.6 million. Profits for the first half of the current year were £401,000 before tax (£287,000), and net assets were £10 million at July 31. Travis Perkins shares rose 2p to 343p.

Hunters Armley ahead

PRE-TAX profits at Hunters Armley Group, the commercial printing company, rose 17.6 per cent to £4.07 million (£3.46 million) for the year ended September 30. Despite increases in paper prices, figures announced yesterday showed a rise in earnings per share to 10.51p (10.01p). The payment of a final dividend of 3p a share on February 23 will take the total dividend for the year to 4.5p (4.0p). The board is cautiously optimistic about prospects in the current year. David Bird, chairman, said: "The short term order book is full and the medium term order book is better than last year." The shares rose 2p to 137p.

Precoat rises 24%

PRECOAT INTERNATIONAL, the precoated steel specialist company, reported a 24.5 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £1.56 million from £1.26 million for the half-year ended October 31. The company, whose shares were floated on the stock market in April, is paying an interim dividend of 2.2p a share (1.79p) to shareholders on January 26. Ian Williams, the chairman, also announced that a rise in sales of 20 per cent, and a slight improvement in net margins had boosted earnings per share to 7.16p from 6.01p.

Bradstock payout held

BRADSTOCK Group, the insurance and reinsurance broker, is holding the total dividend at 5.7p a share after suffering a downturn in profits to £6.1 million before tax from £8.2 million in the year to September 30. An unchanged final dividend of 4.1p will be paid on April 9. The company was affected by a downturn in premium levels and reduced revenue from the insolvency scheme. The company said there had been some recovery in the insurance division's non-insolvency brokerage in the second half. Earnings fell to 6p from 8.9p. However, the shares rose 9p to 75p yesterday.

Halma advances again

HALMA, the safety and environmental technology group, achieved record interim profits for the twentieth successive year, earning £14.38 million before tax in the six months to September 30, compared with £12.48 million in the previous first half. Earnings rose to 3.61p a share from 3.15p. The interim dividend, due on February 12, is 1.008p a share (0.84p). David Barber, chairman, said the promising interim figures gave confidence that the company would maintain its growth pattern. During the six-month period, £3.5 million was spent on acquisitions and £3.1 million on capital expenditure.

Toad seeks £3.5m

TOAD, the car security products company whose shares trade on the Alternative Investment Market, is asking investors for £3.5 million to fund the purchase of NAS, a distributor of vehicle security products, mobile phones and in-car audio entertainment systems. Toad has agreed to pay £1.23 million in cash and shares and will use the balance from the placing and open offer to fund working capital requirements. Toad is issuing new shares at 90p each. Existing shares fell 13p to 103p yesterday. Toad reported losses of £801,350 for the half year to the end of September.

Slimma profits shrink

SLIMMA, the specialist clothes manufacturer which supplies mail order companies and high street retailers, suffered a decline in pre-tax profits to £33,000 from £1.02 million in the year to September 29. The company blamed the continued downturn in consumer spending and a switch in sales towards multiples, resulting in lower margins. Earnings were 0.3p a share (8p). The final dividend has been halved to 1.3p a share, reducing the total to 2.6p from 3.9p. The shares fell 5p to 40p yesterday. Slimma said it was optimistic, with a strong order book and improved margins.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

CARRODUS COATINGS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF on 18th December 1995 at 10.30 am for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.
A list of names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
DATED 7TH DECEMBER 1995
P J Carrodus, Director

FANTING (LONDON) LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that David Alan Botsh of MOORE STEPHENS BOOTH WHITE, 1 Snow Hill, London, EC1A 2BN was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company on 7th December 1995.
Creditors are required, on or before 26th January 1996 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts to the Liquidator and, if so required by notice in writing from the Liquidator, are to come in and prove their debts or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated 8th day of December 1995
DAVID A. ROLPH, Liquidator.
NB This notice is purely formal. All known creditors have been or will be paid in full.

TOTAL MAINTENANCE SERVICES (MIDDLESBROUGH) LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, situated at 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor) London, W2 6LF, on 21st December 1995 at 12.00 Noon for the purposes provided for in Section 98 et seq.
A list of names and addresses of the above company's creditors can be inspected at the offices of Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 953, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
Dated this 7th December 1995
H SOKOLSKY, Director

The Insolvency Act 1986
BRITANNIC TRADING LIMITED
T/as Hospital Entertainment
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD on 18th December 1995 at 11.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting (unless attending in person) must lodge a proxy at 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD no later than noon on 15th December 1995.
A list of names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at Gibson Hewitt & Co, 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6SD between 10.00am and 5.00 pm during the two days next before the meeting.
Dated 8th day of December 1995
By Order of the Board
D. HUCKMAN, Director.

To: RONALD MARTIN O'LEARY
Formerly of: Clarence House, Great Hewsden, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 0TU
TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Leeds District Registry, under Case Number 1994 N 7306, in which judgement has been obtained whereby it was ordered that you pay to National Westminster Bank plc the sum of £96,220.16 and £187.80 costs.
IT IS ORDERED that you attend Leeds District Registry, The Courthouse, 1 Oxford Row, Leeds LS1 3BG, on the 11th January 1996 at 10.00 o'clock in the forenoon to show cause as to why your interest in the property Clarence Hotel, Great Houghton, Barnsley, should not stand charged with the payment of the above judgement debt.
AND THAT IT IS ORDERED that the serving of the Notice to Court above cause in the said action on you, be effected by this advertisement and further take notice that you may obtain a copy of Notice to Show Cause together with Affidavit in support by contacting ANDREW WILSON HORTON of Dibb Lupton Broomhead, solicitors, 117 The Headrow, Leeds LS1 5JX.
Signed:
Dibb Lupton Broomhead,
117 The Headrow
Leeds LS1 5JX
Solicitors for the Plaintiff
Dated 4th December 1995

YMM LIMITED
- Company No:1359073
YMB LIMITED
- Company No: 1818948
(Both in Members' Voluntary Liquidation)
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF YMM LIMITED AND YMB LIMITED
On 7 December 1995 the companies were placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomas of Pyms Waterhouse was appointed Liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claims against the companies to the liquidator, at Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 12 January 1996 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make final distributions to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distributions.
The companies are able to pay all their known creditors in full.
Date: 8.12.95
A V Lomas, Liquidator.

THE LAVENHAM RUG COMPANY LIMITED
In Administrative Receivership
Registered Number: 856703
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Messrs BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA on Friday 22nd December 1995, at 10.30 hrs for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented. A form of proxy is available which, if to be used at the meeting, must be completed in accordance with the guidance notes provided thereon, and lodged at BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA not later than 12.00 hrs on Thursday 21 December 1995.
Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative Receivers, not later than 12.00 hrs on Thursday 21st December 1995, details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the Company and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers, any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf. Dated 6 December 1995
R Hosking
Joint Administrative Receiver

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
GULF TELECOM LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Woodford Moat House, 20 Gale Hill, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 9NY on 21st December 1995 at 10.30 a.m. for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that Jamie Taylor of Messrs. Taylor Gotham & Fry, The Old Exchange, 234 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2EG is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above company, and will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
Dated the 6th December 1995
By Order of the Board
David Abrahamovitch, Director.

KINDLER AQUATICS LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 1 Snow Hill, London EC1A 2EN on 14 December 1995 at 11.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.
Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office - 3/5 Rickmansworth Road, Watford, WD1 7JH, not later than 12 noon on the preceding business day.
For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at 3/5 Rickmansworth Road, Watford, WD1 7JH, before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.
Notice is also hereby given, pursuant to Section 98(2)(a) Insolvency Act 1986, that Malcolm Ellis Cork of Moore Stephens Booth White, 3/5 Rickmansworth Road, Watford, WD1 7JH, is qualified to act as an Insolvency Practitioner in relation to the above Company and will furnish Creditors free of charge with such information concerning the above Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
By Order of the Board
T LINDLER
Director
24 November 1995

SHASCO INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
In Administrative Receivership
Registered Number: 2562208
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of Messrs BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA on Friday 22nd December 1995, at 10.00 hrs for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented. A form of proxy is available which, if to be used at the meeting, must be completed in accordance with the guidance notes provided thereon, and lodged at BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA not later than 12.00 hrs on Thursday 21 December 1995.
Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative Receivers, not later than 12.00 hrs on Thursday 21st December 1995, details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the Company and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of The Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers, any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf. Dated 6 December 1995
R Hosking
Joint Administrative Receiver

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

WMI to charge £123m

BY MARTIN BARROW

WASTE Management International is to charge £123.2 million in the fourth quarter against a widespread restructuring, it was disclosed yesterday.

The company also warned shareholders that results for the final three months of the financial year would fall below expectations. Profits have been affected by a decline in the price of recyclable materials, particularly in Germany, and by the strikes in France, which had severely disrupted operations.

The exceptional charge follows a review of the company's operations and management structure undertaken in late summer after the appointment of Joseph Holsten as chief executive.

More than 300 jobs are likely to go as WMI consolidates country and regional offices and centralises some administrative and management functions to reduce costs. The company is also committed to the disposal of non-core businesses and investments in markets of low potential.

Finally, WMI is considering a withdrawal from certain hazardous waste treatment technologies, where the current market risk no longer justifies the anticipated returns.

Berkeley builds to £19m at halfway

BERKELEY, the house-building company, bucked the sector trend by announcing an increase in profits of 7 per cent to £19 million for the six months to October 31 (Alasdair Murray writes).

Berkeley, which specialises in upmarket houses, said that it had succeeded in holding margins at a similar level to last year, while the average selling price increased from £190,000 to £196,000. Graham Roper, chief executive of Berkeley, said that although the market remained uncertain the company was confident about the future with forward sales rising in October and November.

The share price rose 3p to close at 486p. Turnover was up 13 per cent to £146 million, with the number of housing units sold rising from 641 to 702.

The company added that it had increased land purchases after a fall in prices at the end of the summer.

Berkeley remains financially strong with no gearing and £2 million cash in hand, a consequence of its policy of selling forward early, although during the second half the company anticipates gearing will increase to 25 per cent.

The interim dividend was increased by 9.5 per cent to 2.3p due on February 14.

National Australia Bank Limited.
ACN 004 044 937
Notice is hereby given that -
1. The Annual General Meeting of shareholders of National Australia Bank Limited will be held at the John Batman Theatre, Level 3, World Congress Centre, corner Spencer and Flinders Streets, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia on Thursday, 25 January 1996 at 10.00 am (Eastern Australian Summer Time).
2. Final Dividend of 43 Australian cents per share has been declared by the Bank and is payable on 24 January 1996 to shareholders registered on 29 December 1995. To participate, transfers of shares on the London Register must be lodged no later than 5.00 pm Thursday, 28 December 1995 at the Bank's London Register 6-8 Tokenhouse Yard, London, EC2R 7AJ.
GF Nolan, Company Secretary,
National Australia Bank Limited.
©1996 National Australia Bank Limited GE159/B
National Australia Bank
Tailoring banking to your needs

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Perkins bids for BMSS

Armley ahead

nes 24%

k payout held

nd wages again

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Grafton Amer	200.70	212.30†	+ 0.20	0.11
Grafton Equity	279.70	297.30	+ 1.80	2.07
Grafton Euro	239.20	253.20	+ 1.70	1.47
Grafton Far East Bal	125.80	130.30		0.89
Grafton Gilt	97.16	99.55	+ 0.02	5.10
Grafton Japan	174.60	185.00†	+ 2.20	

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

General Acc	615.90	656.30	+ 1.40	2.59
General Inc	520.80	553.50	+ 1.60	2.59
UK Growth Acc	416.30	442.90	+ 1.00	2.82
UK Growth Inc	377.20	398.10	+ 0.70	2.82
Higher Inc Acc	761.80	810.20	+ 1.30	4.14
Higher Inc Inc	434.60	462.10	+ 0.90	4.14
Gilt & Fixed Int Acc	295.80	312.30	+ 0.20	5.51
Gilt & Fixed Int Inc	95.66	100.40	+ 0.10	5.51
Irish America	339.60	361.30	+ 0.60	
Eurpean	315.10	339.50	+ 1.90	0.84
Intl Recvst	83.05	88.36†	+ 0.42	2.93
Ent Respons Acc	111.30	118.50	+ 0.60	4.72
Ent Respons Inc	77.94	82.97	+ 0.11	4.72
Global Opps	95.66	101.80†	+ 0.80	0.23
Balanced Acc	58.47	64.35	+ 0.11	2.83
Balanced Inc	57.85	61.55	+ 0.10	2.83
Japan Acc	47.49	50.43	+ 0.18	
Pac Basin Acc	384.20	408.80	+ 2.00	1.13

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

Gilts & Fixed Int	132.20	140.70†		7.13
High Inc Equity	174.50	185.60	+ 0.40	4.22
Worldwide Bond	297.00	316.70†	+ 0.60	4.51
American Growth	338.90	360.10	+ 1.40	0.35
Asian Pacific	315.40	335.30	+ 1.50	
Assets & Earnings	286.70	305.00†	+ 1.30	2.85
Euro Capital Acc	169.80	171.90	+ 0.50	0.60
Extra Inc	44.71	47.56	+ 0.06	5.45
General	261.40	278.10	+ 1.30	2.06
Global Opps	58.99	62.75	+ 0.19	0.46
Japan	124.60	133.30	+ 0.20	
Managed Inc	47.43	50.45	+ 0.09	4.61
Mastermind	132.80	141.10	+ 0.60	1.44
US Emerging Cos	177.80	189.20	+ 0.50	
Ethical	74.18	78.91	+ 0.21	2.48
International	127.50	135.60	+ 0.30	0.60
Dividend & Growth	65.89	70.00	+ 0.14	4.29
Global Gwth & Inc	70.69	75.52	+ 0.16	2.62

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

Uk Small Cos	1905.00	2040.00		

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 580

Amer Inc & Growth	56.20	59.37	+ 0.31	0.53
Cash	50.68	50.68†	+ 0.01	5.44
Emerging Mkts	64.65	68.91	+ 0.26	0.05
European	129.10	134.70	+ 0.10	
Exempt	1016.20	1083.20	+ 0.99	1.71
Extra Income #	48.13	51.56†	+ 0.10	6.58
Far East Emg Eco	119.20	126.20		0.50
Fixed Interest #	23.82	24.57†	+ 0.06	9.56
Fund Inc Tst	165.00	174.10†	+ 0.45	8.94
Japan	187.70	198.20	+ 1.30	
Latin American	67.60	69.96	+ 0.58	0.98
Pacific	69.70	84.73	+ 2.03	0.31
Property Shares	62.11	65.19	+ 0.11	3.65
UK Emerging Cos	69.22	73.67	+ 0.02	1.68
UK Growth	68.94	51.88	+ 0.07	2.22
Abtr World Port #	71.91	79.67	+ 0.06	1.96
Ethical	71.91	74.95†	+ 0.08	2.35
Anderson Gilt Inc #	50.79	50.79†		7.89

For AEGON see Matthew

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5868

Bristol Property	97.22	104.20		5.10

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Ansby Income	82.58	87.57	+ 0.15	2.34
Income Builder Inv	74.97	79.76†	+ 0.20	2.72

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01793 514 514 Direct dlg: 01793 514 514

Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	257.00	274.70	+ 0.70	2.84
Capital	455.30	486.70	+ 0.40	1.70
Balanced	752.80	804.70†	+ 0.50	2.47
Accumulations	1434.00	1532.00	+ 2.00	2.65
Income Trusts				
American Income	57.85	61.84	+ 0.09	2.88
High Income	421.10	450.10	+ 0.20	3.43
Equity Income	237.30	253.60	+ 0.10	3.26
High Yield	256.00	273.60†	+ 0.20	3.18
Cnvt Securities	34.85	35.77	+ 0.03	5.77
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	189.50	202.50	+ 0.30	0.35
European Growth	43.06	45.89	+ 0.03	0.01
International	179.10	191.30	+ 0.20	0.17
Japan	204.80	218.10	+ 0.70	0.01
Pacific	401.70	429.80	+ 0.80	0.01
Sects of America	540.90	576.00†	+ 0.50	0.40
Wrldwide Assn Val	53.02	56.57	+ 0.05	0.21
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	569.40	606.60†	+ 0.30	2.10
Comm & Ind	44.49	47.55	+ 0.01	4.86
Smaller Cos	189.30	202.30†	+ 0.10	1.10
2nd Smaller Cos	179.30	191.60	+ 0.10	1.27
Recovery	150.30	160.60		1.63
Mel Min & Exp	179.60	192.00†	+ 0.30	0.65
Ocean Earnings	379.60	405.70†	+ 0.80	1.66
Technology	218.20	233.20†	+ 1.10	0.01
UK Special Sits	517.80	553.50†	+ 0.70	1.56

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 529 911

Cnvrsn Our Pens	110.40	115.10	..	3.04
Foxstton Pens Pens	86.09	89.86	..	1.44

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 600 0033

Capital	77.01	81.93	– 0.02	1.76
International	68.17	72.52	..	..

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

America	301.50	324.20	+ 1.60	
Bond	121.30	127.60		6.57
Brit Smlr Cos	111.00	118.10	– 0.10	1.70
Cons & Gen #	68.59	72.87	+ 0.15	5.38
Europe	238.30	253.40†	+ 0.10	0.82
Euro Smlr Cos	167.50	114.70†	+ 0.20	1.82
Income# Shrs	370.10	393.70†	+ 1.10	3.88
Japan	329.70	351.20	+ 1.90	
Japan Smaller	68.30	72.70	+ 0.08	1.44
Pacific	105.90	112.70†	+ 0.10	1.25
UK Smlr Cos	58.81	62.56	– 0.08	1.79
Japan Fd	664.80	708.60	+ 3.50	
Mngd Fd	190.80	202.60	+ 0.30	2.94

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 489 8873

Brit & Overs	348.10	369.80	+ 4.30	0.80
Capital Gwth	113.90	125.60	+ 1.60	2.51
Worldw Opps	206.40	218.30	+ 1.70	0.92

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 934 8644

Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	385.60	401.70†	+ 2.20	2.58
European Bd Inc	96.23	99.59	+ 0.02	6.53
Exempt	77.34	82.50†	+ 0.26	4.06
Financial	92.32	98.73†	+ 0.46	2.45
Gilt	489.40	509.30	+ 1.10	5.57
General	296.90	317.20	+ 1.60	3.57
Property	227.10	254.40†		6.48
Trustee	209.70	223.70	+ 1.00	2.24
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.00	100.00		6.02
Exec Income #	127.20	136.10	+ 0.70	4.53
Gilt & Fxd Int	59.55	61.05†	+ 0.05	8.15
Income	563.50	602.70	+ 1.30	3.61
Income Builder #	68.48	72.60	+ 0.38	5.19
Intl Income	69.24	72.60	+ 0.38	3.19
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	131.90	140.70	+ 0.50	2.23
Leisure	148.40	158.80	+ 0.40	1.11
Recovery	148.00	158.40	+ 0.40	2.82
Smlr Cos Inc	48.50	52.01	+ 0.01	2.13
Special Sits	337.30	360.70	+ 2.40	1.52
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	161.90	172.80†	+ 0.70	0.29
Asia Acc	270.10	288.60	+ 2.00	1.88
Aust Inc	162.60	174.00†	+ 1.20	1.86
Euro Gwth Inc	167.00	177.20	+ 0.30	0.74
~do~ Income	199.30	191.30	+ 0.20	0.74
Japan & Gen Inc	165.10	174.90	– 0.80	..
~do~ Accum	167.70	178.00	– 0.80	..
Japan Spec Sits	75.55	80.04	– 0.59	..
Latin Tech Inc	91.56	97.36	– 0.16	..
Worldwide	186.60	198.10	+ 0.70	0.62

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

American Growth	117.30	124.00	+ 0.10	..
Amer Smlr Cos	152.30	161.60	+ 0.60	..
Convertibles	56.09	59.09	+ 0.09	5.70
Eastern	365.20	388.10	+ 0.70	0.30
Equity Income	87.91	94.25	+ 0.37	3.66
European Growth	329.90	350.20	+ 1.70	0.29
Europe	270.00	287.40†	+ 0.40	0.29
German Growth	80.18	84.98	+ 0.12	0.50
Global Bond	69.86	73.51	+ 0.01	6.56
Global Growth	141.50	150.70†	+ 0.30	..
Japan Growth	139.30	148.00	+ 0.50	..
Japan Smaller	157.40	167.80	+ 0.30	..
Korea Trust	76.00	80.26	+ 0.01	..
Pacific	136.40	146.10	+ 0.50	0.39
~do~ Accum	257.70	273.80†	+ 0.94	0.39
UK Growth	57.87	61.46	+ 0.16	2.30
UK Income	97.97	94.14	+ 0.23	2.70
US Emerging	82.88	90.36	– 0.05	2.50
Select Managers	81.85	87.77	+ 0.11	1.90

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3300

Intl Gwth Port Inc	85.02	90.45	– 1.51	..
Special Oppor Inc	57.08	60.72	– 1.07	..

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

Balanced Growth	124.36	131.51	+ 0.43	1.52
Cash	143.20	150.47	+ 0.48	1.52
Smaller Cos	125.85	132.85†	+ 0.16	0.81
Higher Yield #	51.43	54.42	+ 0.06	4.35
American Gth Inc	97.40	92.48	+ 0.07	..
Global Bond Inc #	48.13	51.56†	+ 0.07	0.21
European Growth	147.25	155.60	+ 0.37	0.21
~do~ Accum	150.15	158.69	– 0.38	0.21
Global Bond Inc #	27.70	28.70†	+ 0.04	7.07
Mngd Pnsn Inc	47.46	50.32	+ 0.06	4.40
~do~ Accum	48.37	51.46	+ 0.23	1.40
Int Spec Opps	140.37	148.54	+ 3.74	..
Pacific Gths	138.27	144.20	+ 0.85	0.30
UK General #	85.35	90.31	+ 0.44	2.98
~do~ Accum #	88.90	94.07	– 0.34	2.98
Japan	97.84	103.52	+ 0.05	0.46
Gilt & Fixed Int #	101.92	105.62†	+ 0.05	6.46

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

Short Dated Gilt	87.82	88.89	..	6.18

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5060

Cautious	168.80	178.88†	+ 0.30	1.78
UK Growth	190.60	202.00	+ 1.20	2.07
UK Income	147.80	156.60	+ 0.60	4.39

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 822 100

Can Gen Dist	216.76	228.70	+ 0.45	1.73
~do~ Income Dist	116.00	123.00†	+ 0.10	4.06
~do~ Accum	365.20	387.10	+ 0.60	4.06
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.84	44.35	– 0.01	6.13
Gilt & Fxd Int	230.20	246.20	+ 0.60	2.05
Extnde Units	178.60	189.10		5.16
Trusts	235.40	250.40	– 0.20	0.39
Intl Growth	297.30	315.00	+ 0.80	0.29
North American	291.40	311.70	+ 0.40	1.68
Far East	185.80	208.20	– 0.20	1.45
UK Smaller Cos	89.59	95.18	+ 0.10	0.65
European	48.58	51.56	– 0.21	..
Japanese Growth	203.90	218.10	+ 0.40	4.01

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7455 Dlg 0161 831 7455

American & Gen	100.00	106.10	+ 0.30	..
European Inc	86.91	91.86	+ 0.35	1.07
Smaller Cos (4-11	92.62	97.90	– 0.09	1.44
Growth	467.10	511.80	– 1.40	1.74
Income & Growth #	438.20	466.20	+ 3.40	3.88
~do~ Accum #	638.20	679.00	+ 5.00	3.88
Japan & Gen	71.55	75.85	– 0.05	..
Master Portfolio	6111.12	6114.82†	– 5.00	2.15
~do~ Income	6134.75	6138.24	– 6.00	2.15
~do~ Accum	6142.70	6149.90	+ 0.20	1.85
Special Sits	112.70	119.90	+ 3.00	4.43
High Yield	143.90	614.48†	+ 3.00	

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0708

Cazenove Portfolio	94.26	100.70	+ 0.09	2.54
American Portfolio	113.11	119.97†	+ 0.04	0.03
European Portfolio	111.25	118.62	+ 0.44	0.69
High Income	52.42	52.51†		6.89
Japanese Portfolio	69.44	73.85	– 0.16	
Pacific Portfolio	145.23	156.17†	+ 0.76	1.43
Uk Inc & Growth	96.52	99.71	+ 0.04	3.05
Utility & Bond	56.90	57.70	– 0.19	8.61

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

Inc Fund	719.05	779.92	+ 2.52	4.41
Fxd In Sec	157.49	158.13	+ 0.05	9.04

CGF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

Investment Inc	732.94	733.85	+ 0.81	4.35
Investment Acc	1311.84	1325.32	+ 3.57	..
Fixed Int Inc	133.26	139.68	+ 1.48	8.19
Fixed Int Acc	216.95	217.81	+ 2.34	..

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 402 5866

Blackwell Inc	93.61	98.76		3.81
Black Rck-Trach	45.13	45.50†		..
Accm Ethical Tst	168.25	176.79†		0.72
City Fin Accum	77.26	81.13		2.05
City Fin America	104.81	110.06		..
City Fin Inc	87.63	92.04†		0.89
City Fin Japan	151.54	159.13		..
Fin Inc Hor Cst	286.94	310.47		2.35
Fin Inc Hor Inc	191.76	208.34†		4.34
Barclay Mid Cnh	138.58	146.86		..
Fastnet Eqy Dlr	145.55	153.70†		..
Fastnetund Int	153.80	161.88†		..
2 Sid Inc/Gth Inc	57.04	59.98†		2.44

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 731 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300
Emerging Markets 55.15 58.51 + 0.05

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

American Gwth	78.68	81.57	+ 0.24	..
Dragon Growth	68.42	73.17	+ 0.29	0.92
Equity Income	87.17	92.73†	+ 0.19	4.93
European	121.84	129.55	+ 0.26	4.19
Extra Income Inc	26.58	28.61	+ 0.01	7.12
Fixed Interest Acc	28.08	29.56	+ 0.01	7.12
European Growth	57.85	61.17	+ 0.27	1.10
Evergreen	29.36	31.42	+ 0.23	..
General Equity	94.59	100.35	+ 0.06	2.80
Japan Growth	52.76	56.15	– 0.48	..
Pacific Growth	57.31	60.97	+ 0.09	2.62
Prop Sm Cos Inc	23.32	25.45†	+ 0.08	1.55
~do~ Accum	25.09	27.20	+ 0.09	1.55
Retirement Inc #	36.71	38.41	+ 0.04	5.88
Special Sit	42.68	45.19	+ 0.04	2.14
UK & Overseas	54.93	58.38	– 0.02	0.76

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 899 000

Capital	95.13	98.23	+ 0.03	1.94
Balanced	85.10	87.81	+ 0.05	4.14

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 5816

FINESTYLE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	169.94	180.79	+ 0.31	4.84
Fixed & Convertible	49.99	43.61	+ 0.02	6.67
Monthly Inc Pac	56.72	59.43	+ 0.09	8.38
Preference Share	47.17	50.18	+ 0.03	7.77
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	129.83	138.12	+ 0.35	5.88
Managed Fund	73.19	77.86	+ 0.18	3.02
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Coc	43.28	46.04	+ 0.13	1.76
~do~ Accum	50.37	53.59	+ 0.14	1.76
Ukr & General	88.11	93.73	+ 0.13	2.73
~do~ Accum	111.58	120.30	+ 0.17	2.73
UK Growth	165.08	175.62	+ 0.02	2.30
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	203.67	216.83	+ 1.12	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	133.33	141.84	+ 0.57	..
Global Bond	84.67	89.98	+ 0.07	5.88
Japan Growth	119.48	127.11	+ 0.56	..
North Amer Gth	243.78	259.34	+ 0.38	..
Overseas Opps	69.88	74.32	+ 0.08	0.15
Global Pnv	27.74	29.59	+ 0.08	0.76
UK Growth	108.30	113.10	– 0.10	1.28
Int Bond Fd	158.98	179.10		2.77
Int PEP	43.94	46.77	+ 0.04	1.06
Japan Spec Sits	91.09	96.88	+ 0.13	..
Japan	108.61	201.60	– 1.00	..
Managed Int	325.40	345.80	+ 0.10	0.43
Moneyfunds	60.27	64.09	+ 0.03	..
Recovery	51.13	54.37	+ 0.09	1.42
Smlr Cos P Acc	169.20	180.50	+ 1.20	1.05
Special Sits	605.30	643.60	+ 7.90	0.72
Specialist Funds				
Cash Account Units	112.16	112.16	+ 0.01	5.29

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5966

Consistent UT	33.33	35.67	..	3.34

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 356

Growth	168.70	186.50†	+ 0.10	1.78
Income	70.86	75.37	+ 0.10	5.30
European	65.95	70.16		0.84
Recovery	166.70	177.30	+ 1.30	2.09

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 283 9494

Equity Dist	906.50	921.80†	..	3.47

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 696 370

Fellowship Tst	93.06	98.99	– 0.15	1.51
Income #	264.70	281.50	+ 0.30	4.25
~do~ Accum #	670.80	722.10	+ 1.00	4.25
Smaller Cos	199.80	212.50	+ 0.70	0.97
~do~ Accum	245.00	261.50	+ 0.90	0.96
Inv Portfolio	90.56	96.33	+ 0.31	1.55
High Inc Port #	77.35	82.28	+ 0.10	4.30

DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD
0171 410 0177

Euro Small Cos	1527.70	1599.40†	..	..
Japan Small Cos	1206.70	1229.80†	..	..
UK Small Cos	1919.00	1991.30	..	..
US Small Cos	1961.00	1998.10†	..	..

DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS
0171 577 8818

Disc Inc	218.50	230.60	..	2.95

DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0131 315 2500

European Gwth	300.40	317.50	+ 0.90	0.67
New Asia	229.60	235.30	+ 2.50	0.24
Japan Growth #	111.90	119.00	– 0.30	..
Jap Smlr Co	450.70	478.10	– 0.90	..
Intl Amer	350.10	370.50	– 0.30	0.77
UK Inc & Gwth	231.60	247.40	+ 0.70	2.86

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01342 577 555

UK Mnd Inc	154.70	164.50†	+ 0.90	1.63
UK High Inc Inc	163.80	174.20†	+ 0.80	4.10
~do~ Accum	217.10	230.90†	+ 1.10	4.13
UK Pref & Fl Inc	39.72	63.36†	+ 0.03	4.95
Smallcomp Opp	91.03	96.82	+ 0.03	0.06
UK Smlr Cos #	60.37	64.22	– 0.19	0.01
Extra Income Inc	49.27	52.41	+ 0.04	7.80

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01345 090 529

American	156.10	165.70†	+ 1.20	1.06
Convertibles #	71.55	72.40†	– 0.03	6.26
Equity Income #	134.00	142.40	+ 0.20	3.72
Eurofund	82.49	86.82	+ 0.14	0.30
Exempt	126.00	135.60	+ 0.30	0.36
Far East Inc	134.60	142.60	+ 0.40	0.05
Fledgling	358.80	382.70	+ 0.60	3.89
Global Inc	502.40	547.30	+ 1.20	3.69
Financial	148.80	158.30†	+ 0.60	0.05
Growth & Inc #	364.70	381.20	+ 0.90	3.74
High Dist #	167.60	178.10†	+ 0.70	4.21
International	414.66	440.70	+ 0.90	0.11
Int Corp Inc	96.29	104.30	+ 0.10	2.82
Latin American	25.68	27.30	– 0.24	..
Pacific	81.58	87.10	+ 0.38	..
Pref High Inc	21.57	23.34	+ 0.03	7.07
Tokyo	233.10	247.50	– 0.20	..
UK Smaller Cos	250.90	266.60	– 0.40	1.03

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0242

Ely Blue Chip Dlgs	101.50	108.57	+ 2.24	1.40
Growth Acc	244.54	261.11	+ 5.88	0.68
Income	585.35	621.33	+ 1.82	5.21

ENDOWSURE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7261

Endowsure Fd	217.90	231.80	..	1.19

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01296 431 480

European	85.86	90.51	– 0.84	1.98
Global Tst	46.41	48.85	– 0.31	1.29
Far Eastern	264.56	280.58	+ 0.44	1.64
High Income	133.71	140.81†	+ 0.01	4.84
Intl Growth	184.79	131.35	– 0.65	0.45
North American	137.85	144.24	– 0.32	1.46
Pelican	128.81	135.59	+ 0.15	3.29
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Intl Bond	30.59	31.65	– 0.02	5.80
Income Funds				
High Income	35.52	38.03†	+ 0.00	5.38
Income Plus	1230.40	1295.17†	+ 0.10	4.13
Amer Eq Inc	58.12	61.56	+ 0.30	1.44
European Income	45.45	48.33	– 0.06	2.37
Far East Inc	67.36	71.59†	– 0.23	2.36
Global Convertible	24.66	26.21		2.57
UK Div Gth	27.86	29.78		2.23
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	69.24	67.45	– 0.12	..
American	307.70	326.90†	+ 1.30	..
Emerging Mkts	168.30	178.80	+ 1.40	..
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European	197.30	209.66	+ 0.10	0.65
European Opps	69.88	74.32	+ 0.08	0.15
Global Pnv	27.74	29.59	+ 0.08	0.76
UK Growth	108.30	113.10	– 0.10	1.28
Int Bond	158.98	179.10		2.77
Int PEP	43.94	46.77	+ 0.04	1.06
Japan Spec Sits	91.09	96.88	+ 0.13	..
Japan	108.61	201.60	– 1.00	..
Managed Int	325.40	345.80	+ 0.10	0.43
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Recovery	51.13	54.37	+ 0.09	1.42
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Pacific Portfolio	145.23	156.17†	+ 0.76	1.43
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American Growth	58.07	59.64†	+ 0.17	0.40
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European Growth	173.15	181.98	+ 0.84	
European Income	93.78	98.65	+ 0.46	
Far Eastern	646.40	684.30	+ 2.40	
Global Growth	337.56	358.80	+ 2.70

Craig Seton introduces a two-page special report to celebrate the centenary of a seat of learning in Birmingham with high hopes

First-class ambition in the second city

One hundred years after its foundation, the University of Aston is preparing to put into action a crucial new phase of a strategy that is designed to secure a dynamic and expanding role for the institution into the 21st century.

The university, in Birmingham, plans to increase student numbers by more than 30 per cent by the year 2000 (including many more overseas students), attracting them by introducing a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes more closely geared to the demands of modern industry, commerce and public services.

The university also proposes to recruit students with qualifications other than A levels, upgrade Aston's national and international research standing, restructure its three faculties, create new schools of studies and offer study opportunities for people with experience of work.

Professor Mike Wright, senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor, who takes over as Vice-Chancellor next August, says the changes will demonstrate Aston's ability to be responsive and adaptable to the changing environment while maintaining its reputation for the highest academic standards and commitment to quality in teaching and research.

The changes are the next step in a fundamental restructuring started in 1981 after big reductions in funding by the then University Grants Committee, which led to student numbers being cut by more than a third, academic staffing by a half and the reorganisation of departments into three faculties.

Since then the university has recruited new academics and spent £20 million refurbishing the campus and installing a computer Local Area Network (LAN) linking 2,000 terminals, the largest system at any British university.

The developments over the past 10-15 years will be the springboard for regeneration, heralding a new chapter in the progress of an institution founded as the Birmingham Municipal Technical School in 1895, which received its university charter in 1966.

Professor Wright, who will oversee the strategic developments, is a former Aston University student chosen to succeed Professor Sir Frederick Crawford when he retires next year. He believes the true essence of Aston's mission statement to be a leading technological university is for it to become a "really useful" institution operating in the real world, while retaining the essential qualities of academic creativity.



Aston University students collecting cash for local charities in Birmingham during their rag week

But, Professor Wright says: "That is not to say that we should become sub-contract research and development units. There needs to be a partnership between universities and industry and commerce to work for UK Ltd and, in our case, for Birmingham Ltd."

The professor, a former engineering apprentice, spent 18 years in senior positions in industry before joining Aston in 1990 and he retains links with numerous companies. He says the changes are Aston's response to the revolution that has created greater access to higher education, the development of new vocational qualifications, and demands for high-grade graduates with multi-disciplinary rather than narrowly based skills. Universities, he points out, also have to look for more private funding and rely less on government finance.

Almost 4,500 students are involved in Aston's mix of applied courses in the faculties of engineering and applied science, life and health sciences and management, languages and European studies.



Professor Wright: company links

Professor Wright wants to see an increase in "sensible" learning packages, including more multi-disciplinary and modular programmes and says a new range of postgraduate courses will be developed. "There is major market demand for continuing vocational education and professional development."

Research, too, will be conducted in line with regional, national and international objectives. Professor Wright insists that the quality of the student intake will not be diminished by proposals to increase the recruitment of students with the very best qualifications in BTEC and GNVQs, which will help to create a bigger university with a wider academic base. He says: "It is ludicrous to assume that universities should remain constant. A university has to develop in a way that reflects the subject-based aspirations of its students."

The professor says the academic structure of nine departments in three faculties will probably change in the next 18 months to create four schools of study, including a new school of humanities to build on the university's strengths in languages and European studies.

This could involve the development of courses in Chinese, Japanese and possibly Russian languages, probably in association with other universities at home and abroad. Such linguistic programmes, he says, could be allied to global business studies and other courses such as international law and international negotiations.

LANDMARKS

THE development of Aston University as a centre for technological education in the "metal-bashing" city of Birmingham began when the Birmingham Municipal Technical School opened its doors in 1895.

After its official opening 100 years ago today, there were classes in chemistry, physics, metallurgy, electrical engineering, mathematics, engineering, drawing, botany and typography. 2,000 students enrolled.

By 1911 it had expanded to include classes in commercial subjects and within five years it had become an independent commercial college. In 1930 it was renamed the Birmingham Central Technical College and moved to Gosta Green, now known as Aston Triangle. After the Second World War a department of industrial administration was created. By then there were 10,000 students.

In the early 1950s work on a new main building started and the first full-time sandwich courses were introduced. It became the first College of Technology (CAT) in the country in 1957. The following year 34 electrical engineering students received the first National Council for Technology Awards.

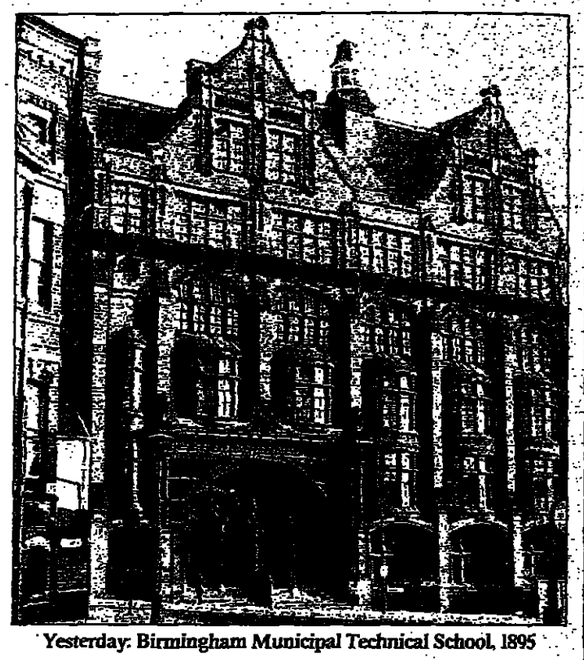
Dr (later Sir) Peter Venables was appointed Principal and in 1963 the Robbins Committee on Higher Education recommended that CATs should become technological universities. Aston's university charter was formally sealed in 1966 and Lord Nelson of Stafford was installed as the first Chancellor.

Dr (later Sir) Joseph Pope succeeded Dr Venables as Vice-Chancellor and in 1980, the present Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Frederick Crawford, was appointed. The university then faced sharp reductions in funding and student numbers, imposed by the University Grants Committee.

Student numbers were reduced from 5,500 to 3,400 and academic staff numbers were halved from more than 500. Sir Frederick says: "We went for standards and quality and have not had a deficit for 16 years."



Today: Aston University's entrance dominated by sky lifts



Yesterday: Birmingham Municipal Technical School, 1895

a century of achievement
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- Our outstanding graduate employment record demonstrates the relevance of our programmes to the needs of industry, commerce and the public sector.
- Close collaboration with a wide range of partner institutions abroad underlines our international focus.
- Aston's Business School is one of the largest and best regarded in Europe.
- Through the recruitment of top academics, Aston is establishing national and international recognition for its research in new areas such as Neural Networks, Photonics, Machine Controls and Drives, Vision Sciences and Pharmaceutical Chemistry.
- An excellent electronic infrastructure supports a campus-wide local area network.
- Aston is a leading exponent of Continuing Vocational Education.
- Our superb, attractively landscaped campus is right in the heart of the UK's second city within five minutes' walk of the centre of Birmingham.

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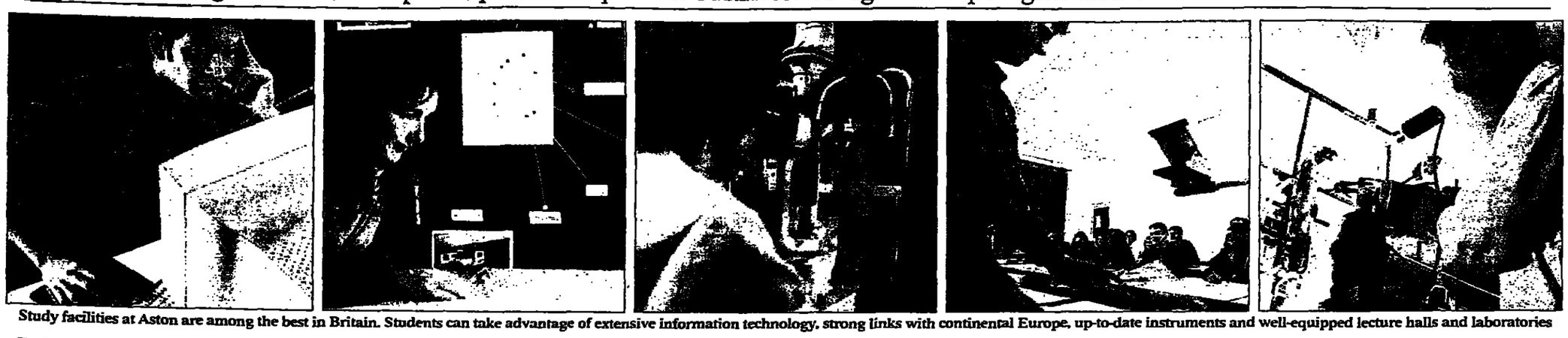
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هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Groundbreaking research, bold plans, partnerships with business. **Craig Seton** spotlights an institution with its mind on the future



Study facilities at Aston are among the best in Britain. Students can take advantage of extensive information technology, strong links with continental Europe, up-to-date instruments and well-equipped lecture halls and laboratories

New jobs bring new life

One of the great successes of the university has been its role in the development of the neighbouring Aston Science Park which, since 1983, has grown into a flourishing enterprise accommodating 95 knowledge-based companies employing 1,200 people.

Professor Sir Frederick Crawford, the Vice-Chancellor, recognised the potential for a science park at Aston after returning to the UK in the early 1980s from Stanford University in California, where the concept of technology transfer between academic institutions and industry was flourishing.

Together, the university, Birmingham City Council and Lloyds Bank have forged a partnership to launch a science park on a 22-acre site alongside Aston. In 1983 the first companies moved into a new business and innovation centre there and began the work of exploiting new-technology developments.

The science park today is embarking on an £18 million expansion programme to provide an additional 160,000 square feet of high quality office, commercial and retail accommodation, increasing its size by 75 per cent. The new developments could create up to 1,000 more jobs and will go ahead in two phases.

Derek Harris, chief executive of Birmingham Technology, the park's management company, says the facility has been a huge boost to Birmingham after its loss of so many traditional industries. "It has brought a balance to the city by attracting some of the newer technologies and businesses."

The school that offers real world experience

A key aim of Aston Business School is for all its courses to be relevant to the rapidly-changing needs of industry, commerce and the public services, according to Dr Fred Hewitt, its head.

The school was created as a separate entity during reorganisation at the university in the early 1980s, and is now one of the largest management training schools in Europe.

The business school accounts for about 40 per cent of academic activities at Aston. More than 1,000 undergraduates are taking degrees there and a similar number are taking joint honours degrees, splitting their studies between the school and other parts of the university.

One of the most popular courses, for both students and employers, is the four-year BSc in Managerial and Administrative Studies, which includes a one-year work experience placement at one of the 100 companies and organisations, in the UK and abroad, with which the school has firm links.

"Graduates from that course often get a top rating from employers in terms of suitability because they have real world experience," says Dr Hewitt, a former business executive, who believes that the school's services to the area, including regional firms such as Tarmac, IMI, PowerGen and the TSB bank are playing a vital role in the region's much-needed economic regeneration.

As well as offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses, the school is a major provider of post-experience training for the region — that is, training for those who have already worked in industry or commerce. It is also well-known for the quality of its management training for the public services.



Aston Business School: passport to a top job

This year there are 270 postgraduates studying on MBA and MSc courses at the school, quite a number of them from overseas. Another 100 students are undertaking research programmes, including PhDs.

Dr Hewitt says the school is preparing an new initiative in its post-experience work by creating consultancy services and short specialist training programmes for the small to medium-sized business sector. These, he hopes, will help such smaller firms to compete effectively in the marketplace.

The business school has applied for European Development Fund money to help to revamp part of its post-experience facilities for the new project. This will involve setting up computer links with the nearby Aston Science Park and other business centres.

Matching funding for the scheme, which will cost more than £1 million, will be sought from business. Dr Hewitt says the school intends to develop its post-experience and post-graduate programmes for employers still further.

Training will include courses on a wide range of business issues including information technology, benchmarking, teamwork and business practice.

The school will also have a 50 per cent share of a new chair, sponsored for five years by PowerGen, based in the West Midlands, which is intended to develop combined engineering and management degree courses.

For instance, 20 senior staff nurses from the West Midlands Health Authority have taken specialist courses there, helping to prepare them for managerial roles. Most have now opted to do part-time Master of Business Administration (MBA) courses.

After the cuts, a new climate of optimism

Aston University began a 15-year restructuring programme in 1981, covering every aspect of its activities, after its income from the University Grants Committee was cut by about one third over three years.

The drastic cuts in student and academic staff numbers that followed were a savage blow. But led by Professor Sir Frederick Crawford, the Vice-Chancellor, it set about the task of realigning its affairs to cope with the new financial reality.

Professor Crawford and senior academics say that during the past 15 years they have worked to ensure that high standards in teaching, research and management have been at the heart of the restructuring, which is now nearly completed. A period of new growth and development has begun.



Professor Crawford, the Vice-Chancellor

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Tighe, who has been at Aston for 25 years, says there has been a campus-wide programme to make sure staff are aware of quality issues, establish benchmarking standards and decide where improvement programmes, led by academics, should be put in place. Groups have been set up to analyse various university activities such as staff recruitment, student welfare and financial management.

"I do not see why universities should not be judged in the same way as businesses," he says "Very early on Aston analysed its teaching and research in terms of economic viability. Now every university does the same."

Professor Tighe points out that the French section of the department of languages and European studies scored top marks for learning resources, student progression and achievement, student support and guidance and curriculum design, content and organisation in an assessment by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Similar results were achieved in chemical engineering — and the university is also in the top five for library provision.

David Packham, the university registrar, says the centenary celebrations at Aston are an appropriate occasion to look back on developments over the past century and look forward to the new millennium. He believes Aston has been transformed by the changes it has gone through during the past 15 years, and well deserves its reputation as a dynamic, progressive university in applied learning.

The placement year, during which students spend time working in industry and organisations, or abroad for language courses, remains at the heart of applied learning at Aston.

Two thirds of the university's 4,500 students spend part of their time gaining experience of what academics routinely describe as "the real world".

Aston has remained at or near the top of the graduate employment statistics for almost a decade. Around two thirds of its graduates manage to find full-time employment within six months of graduating. This compares with the national average of less than half of the students graduating.

Mr Packham says the university has gained international recognition for research that meets the demands of industry and commerce, including its work in neural networks, photonics, synthetic biomaterials, high-speed machinery, pharmaceuticals, and structures and materials.

He also highlights Aston's pioneering work in distance learning, which enables students from all over the world to receive videotapes of lectures and other course work.

Mr Packham says the refurbishment programme has created an attractive, landscaped campus, equipped with a pioneering computer network, near central Birmingham that probably cannot be rivalled by any other urban higher education institution.

HOW RESEARCHERS AT ASTON UNIVERSITY ARE PROBING THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

Royalties help to improve facilities

WHEN royalty payments start flowing, a university is entitled to believe that its research is both relevant and productive.

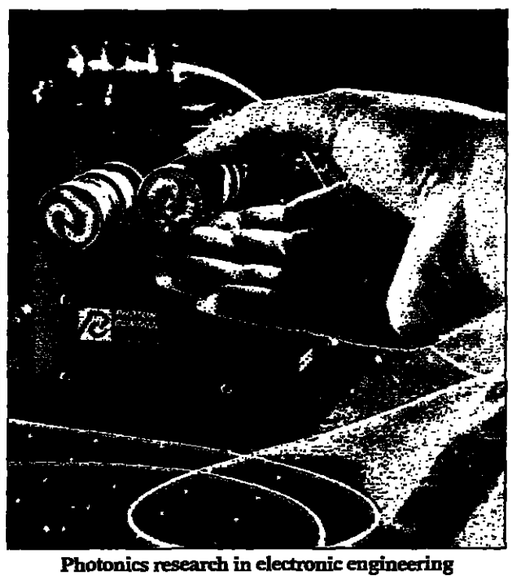
That is the case with Aston's department of pharmaceutical and biological sciences, where a specialist drugs group, researching the discovery and development of new drugs, has discovered three molecules that have now gone into clinical trials. One of the molecules, an anti-cancer compound, is in advanced clinical trials with a drugs company and royalties are being paid to the department.

Professor David Billington, head of the department, says the last payment amounted to £50,000 and the money has been used to upgrade the chemistry laboratories. Overall, the department attracts about £1 million a year from outside sources, including charities, research councils and companies that collaborate in its research. The department also teaches about 400 undergraduates who are taking degrees in pharmacy, and in human biology. It also has a postgraduate school.

In general, the department carrying out research on drugs focuses on proliferative and degenerative diseases, such as cancer and diabetes, and has forged links with numerous companies, such as Glaxo and Wellcome.

The department is part of the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences, which also includes the department of vision sciences, the largest of its type in the United Kingdom. This vision sciences department has facilities for undergraduate teaching, research and clinical work.

Its degree in optometry creates professional clinicians who are responsible for vision care and for assessing functional disorders of the eye and visual systems.



Photonics research in electronic engineering

Working to avoid the bottlenecks

SOME of the biggest international telecommunications companies are working with the university's department of electronic engineering and applied physics to develop advanced systems to improve the transmission of data by optical means.

BT, Nortel, Marconi, Alcaltel, GPT and Hewlett Packard are among the firms that have established links with the department's research activities in photonics.

Professor Mike Cardwell, head of the department, says the huge advances and growth in international telecommunications are driving forward research into new systems for high-speed transmission of information.

He points out that while optical fibre is currently used worldwide to carry data long distances in the form of light, the rapid development of the information superhighway across countries will overburden other elements of the system, such as telephone exchanges and electronic switches. Bottlenecks will build up unless new ways are found to ease the flow. An all-optical communications network is being considered.

Professor Cardwell says the next-generation technology, optical, trans-oceanic communications — a stable pulse of light — is likely to be the solution, in which Aston has considerable expertise.

Did the Bard write that play?

RESEARCHERS in the computer science and applied mathematics department at Aston have used neural computing to determine whether Shakespeare or his contemporary, John Fletcher, penned *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, a play whose authorship has long been a source of dispute.

The department's neural computing research group has established an international reputation for its work in designing neural networks, intelligent artificial systems that adopt pattern recognition behaviour in order to learn by example.

The concept of neural computing started as an attempt to develop smart systems that could mimic the thinking intelligence of the human brain. What has been achieved so far is usually applied to tasks in industry and commerce, but the group used the technology to compare the disputed play with Shakespeare's masterpieces to see if patterns of literary style could be identified. The results are to be announced shortly, but Professor David Lowe, Professor of Neural Computing, reveals that sections of the play were apparently written individually by the two playwrights and other parts were a collaborative effort. He adds: "The findings are consistent with current thinking."

The research group consists of three professors, seven lecturers and postgraduate and research students. Professor Lowe says: "Most UK universities will have someone working on neural networks, but we have developed a research team that we believe is the strongest in Europe and we have established links with industry and commerce both here and abroad." The university's MScs, offered through research in pattern analysis and neural networks, were the first of their kind in the country.

Applications for neural networks are diverse. Finance houses are keen on the technology for advanced data analysis and car makers want it for developing "smart" systems controlling functions in vehicles. A Japanese microwave oven manufacturer has introduced neural computing to determine how long food should be cooked. Professor Lowe says that while much of the group's work is of a theoretical nature, it will have further commercial applications. Among the department's best publicised work was that last June by Robert Matthews, a visiting professor. His paper *Tumbling Toast, Murphy's Law and the Fundamental Constants* proved the propensity of toast to land buttered-side down.

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Early gains not held

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2937½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2681½	+37½	4.5	10.6
654	413	Abbey Nat	638	– 10	3.8	12.6
368	250	Allied Irish	356	+ 1	4.0	10.4
298	198	Aust New Z	296	...	5.4	...
4425	2531½	Bank Americas	4362½	+ 6½	2.1	29.5
285	191½	Bank Scotland†	275	+ 1	3.8	12.2
812½	557½	Barclays	772	– 5	3.6	10.5
488	288	BK of Ireland	478	...	3.5	9.6
525	418	Cater Allen†	435	...	3.4	9.2
4710½	2450	Citicorp	4412½	–143½	...	...
340½	216½	Close Bros	324	...	3.4	14.4
2162½	1125½	Commerzbk	2151½	– 13½	3.6	...
1375	983½	Dst Bk Ire Kpr Y	1250½	+ 3½	0.4	...
3231½	2275	Deutsche Bk	3134½	+ 6½	2.4	...
6811½	5625	Espirito Santo	6025	...	5.9	8.0
1611	1139½	Fuji Bank Y	1432½	+ 7½	0.4	...
490	395	Genoa Natl	453	...	6.2	14.6
253	180	Hambros†	201	– 2	4.7	...
1618	599	HBOS	1608	+ 8½	3.5	13.1
994	578	HSBC Hk	987	+ 9½	3.6	12.8
388	288	Irish Perm	365	...	3.1	9.1
463	353	Lloyds QU	458	...	5.1	25.6
145	85	Ming Shacon	139½	+ 2	3.1	10.8
695	530	Lloyds	679	– 5	3.8	13.4
562	479	Nat Aust Bk	552	– 1	6.9	...
997	454	Nat West	984	– 1	4.3	10.3
3008	2138	Ottoman Bank	2908	...	9.5	9.4
87	44	Rea Brothers	46	...	2.7	10.4
619	373½	Rpl Bk Scot	575	– 9	3.6	12.8
1478	906½	Schroders	1343	+ 8	1.5	19.1
1180	823½	Schroder: N/V	1148	+ 8	1.5	16.4
111	81	Singer & Fried	110½	+ ½	4.5	11.4
625	349	Stand Chart	562½	– 2½	2.0	14.1
417	217	TSB	408	– 4	3.5	14.2
121	70	Ulster	103	...	3.5	...
21454	9043½	Wells Fargo	21439½	– 31½	2.1	...
370	211	Westpac	367½	– 2	5.1	...
356	280	Wintrust	356	...	5.3	15.3

BREWERIES

250	143	Accol Hldgs	250	+ 10	...	0.5
727	467	Bass	724	+ 4	4.0	...
445	239	Boddington	444	...	2.6	25.8
193	137	Burtonwood Brwy	176	...	5.8	17.0
190	137	Elerdale P 'A'	190	+ 3	3.1	...
230	156	Gulls Stn 'A'	217	+ 2	2.8	17.7
544	402	Greenalls, Gp	541	+ 5	3.3	...
658	458	Greene King	631	– 2	2.9	16.8
297	240	Harvy Hanch	286	+ 1	4.6	...
160	150	Hoskins	155	...	4.5	10.9
3425	3048	Hall J	3108	– 5	2.2	16.9
347	219	Mansfield†	316	...	2.1	15.9
321	282	Marston Thmpt	306	– 2	3.0	14.4
543	351½	Morland	521	...	2.9	15.9
9½	6½	Paramount	9½	...	4.1	10.2
624	307	Regent Inns	617	+ 11	1.4	24.3
2316½	1282½	SA Breweries†	2189½	+ 31½	1.6	31.0
648	483	Scot & Nwe	619	+ 6	3.9	16.2
357	230	Scot & Nwe PP	330	...	...	...
218	173	Tom Cobleigh	195	...	1.8	31.5
309	211	Vaux Group	262	– 12	5.2	12.8
640	449	Wetherspoon JD†	639	– 1	1.6	26.0
579	521	Whitbr Gibbs	548	+ 2	3.6	16.5
585	483	Wolverhampton D	548	+ 2	3.6	...
310	186	Yates Bros	305	...	1.3	27.0
675	425	Young & C	538	– 3	4.3	17.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

150	125	Abbey	140	...	4.7	9.1
198	143	Allard	196	...	3.8	14.6
181	54½	Amec	180	...	3.8	21.1
275	153	Amec Spkes	268	– 13½	...	...
195	137½	Ashtead†	172	– 2	1.8	17.0
105	35	Arrandale	35	...	11.8	5.6
58	35	Bailey (Benj) Cor	56	...	5.2	6.1
41½	39½	Barcons	39	...	...	...
229	158	Barratt Dev	227	...	4.1	14.2
172	122	Bazaar Homes	166	...	4.4	11.9
266	180	Bellway	262	...	3.9	11.9
37	15	Bellwinch	17	...	2.9	15.1
487	315	Berkeley Gp	467	+ 4	2.1	15.1
183	131½	Bett Bros	177	...	3.9	15.2
245	190	Bovt (Henry)	193	...	4.2	9.0
124	81	Brandon Hire†	89	...	3.2	15.9
78	37	Brannsa Gp	35	...	7.7	9.1
169	36	Br Bldg & Eng	40	...	25.0	5.5
124	93	Br Dredg	106	...	6.0	10.5
21	12	Brown & Jkn	19	...	3.5	10.7
141	98	CALA	111	...	3.6	10.7
38	16	Cappiti & Arm	30	...	...	15.9
64	49	Carne T	49	...	10.4	17.6
242½	67	Carlton	72	...	...	...
110	53	Country Ide	69	– 2	7.6	9.9
81	43	Crest Nicholson	61	– 1	4.1	8.5
98	70	Cussons	81	...	5.9	7.1
293	165	Eve Group	165	...	6.9	8.8
13	6	Eccland	9	...	6.6	39.6
863	736	Gleeson (M.J.)†	778	...	2.5	...
80	60	Green (Ernest)	60	...	10.6	26.1
273	178	Hawtock Estrat	272	...	1.5	22.9
158	115	Hawden-Stuart†	135	– 3	2.6	14.4
25	14	Higgs & Hill	23	...	3.4	79.9
22	14	Howard Hidgs	15	...	6.7	17.5
39½	6½	Jones	22½	...	...	...
143	98	Kelle	143	+ 5	3.4	13.9
265	165	Laing (J)	254	...	4.4	31.4
104	82	Laing 5.4% Cv Pf	102	...	7.8	...
61	12	Lamb (W.J)	17	...	...	5.2
210	176	Maunders (J)	186	...	3.8	9.9
181	104	McAlpine (A)	143	– 5	5.2	16.3
70	48	McCarthy & S	66½	...	3.9	...
80	58	Morgan Sndall	76	...	1.4	...
123	115	Morrison Cons	120	...	4.3	12.0
106	53	Mowlem (J)	51	+ 2	4.4	10.2
216	182	Persimmon	184	+ 2	6.5	12.7
114½	79½	Pochin	108	...	2.8	12.2
126	94	Powlings†	111	...	4.5	14.8
53	13	Rame Ind	15	– 1	4.2	...
53	45	Secure Retire	49	...	2.6	9.3
128	93	Redrow	126	...	3.1	11.7
398	327	Sheriff Hidgs	328	– 17	2.7	...
112½	71	Shanco	71	– 1	7.0	10.9
368	258	Speyhert	253	...	4.0	22.5
176	142	Tay Homes	151	...	5.3	15.2
130	99	Taylor Woodrw	123	+ ½	2.3	23.4
568	415	Tilbury Dougls	443	...	6.3	15.1
59½	39	Torex Hire	33	...	4.9	14.1
23	6	Trenchermood	10	...	...	4.1
39	7½	Try Group	10½	– ½	6.0	14.7
109	74	Vioneplant	74	...	6.2	16.6
116	93	Wainhomes†	100	...	5.6	9.3
60	37	Ward Hidgs	46	...	4.1	10.8
190	123	Westbury†	176	...	4.3	13.0
6½	2½	Wiggins	3	...	...	30.6
174	124	Wilcon (C)	152	...	3.7	12.1
372	308	Wilson Bowdn	347	...	3.6	12.7
138	97	Wimpey G	130	...	5.5	18.9

BUSINESS SERVICES

2	0½	Anglo Utd	0½	...	...	...
110	57	Aqua Hole	93	– 7	...	...
7½	5½	Bailey (CH)	6½	...	...	...
99	36	Black Arrow†	40	...	9.7	7.0
69	60	Br Bloodstock	68	...	...	39.4
6	3½	Brit Vita	4	...	...	...
9½	4½	Chrysalis	6½	...	4.8	11.6
161	136	Cordi	153	– 1	7.4	...
277	215	Filotax	257	...	1.4	17.6
43	39	Hackney	39	...	...	...
436	248	Hazelrick	428	...	2.6	16.1
168	97	Lehgh	98	– 1	8.4	11.6
231	102	Robt Gp	134	...	5.8	8.8
365	151	Rtcln-Mer	156	– 7	4.0	13.6
68	53	Plant & Gen†	57	...	6.9	6.2
11	0½	Redime	1½	...	...	...
104	72	Shanks & McEwan†	90	...	4.7	18.6
213	160	Sondar (Wm)	186	– 2	5.1	12.7
414	341	Waste Mgt Int	353	– 2½	...	13.7
148	73	Waste Recyg	135	...	1.7	28.3

BUILDING MATERIALS

14	7½	Abingdon	13	...	1.0	...
445	311½	Alumasc	415	– 5	2.2	17.9
343	267½	BPB Ind†	335	– 5	4.0	13.3
133	94	Baggeridge Brk	124	...	3.2	11.7
36	22½	Barron	28½	...	8.8	13.9
18	16	Blackfrs	16	...	4.1	...
339	255	Blue Circle	325	– 2	4.5	14.8
89	72	Breedon PLC	77	...	7.8	10.7
136	106	Br Dredging	107	...	6.5	14.0
485	338	CRH	483	+ 10	2.1	18.1
46	38	Caledonian Rty	46	...	9.4	...
210	143	Carpo	146	...	9.4	11.3
273	174	Caradon	186	+ 7	6.4	9.6
134½	99½	Caradon pf	106½	+ 2½	8.5	...
35	18	Chemiinfra Ep	19	...	13.2	...
198	105	Dyson (JJ&J)	183	– 2	2.7	15.1
90	63	Evans 'A'	83	...	6.0	6.9
98½	56½	Eclipse Blands	93	...	...	...
315	220	Epwin	297	...	4.7	12.8
103	73	Fibre	100	...	...	...
90	65	Gibbs & Dandy	83	...	4.3	...
205	160	Graham Gp	198	– 1	3.4	17.3
389	312	Halstead (J)	389	– 2	3.1	14.4
335	254	Hepworth†	303	– 2	6.1	14.0
63	39	Hewetson	41	...	7.8	8.5
268	202½	Heiwrd Wtn	259	...	7.5	11.8
85	63	Hobbs	85½	...	3.5	13.2
288	202	Ibstock	283	...	3.5	17.6
109	84	Lilleshall	90	...	6.7	10.8
830½	685	Marley	812	+ 1	5.2	9.8
162	125	Marshalls	146	...	4.3	10.4
393	269	Mayer Int†	372	+ 1	3.9	14.1
178	121	Newman Tnks	121	...	7.1	10.9
106	71	Norcros	77	...	...	...
20	13	Pheonix Timber	17	...	...	16.2
297	246½	Redgrave 'A'	197	+ 2	3.0	15.2
177	122	Polypipe	163	+ 2	2.8	15.2
1119	848½	RMC Gp	986	– 2	3.7	11.5
18	3	Ramus	5	...	...	...
470	325	Redland	387	– 3	5.6	11.3
152	97	Ruberoid	94	...	5.7	9.8
176½	128	Rubtrovd	145	...	5.3	11.7
125	100	Rugby Group	105	...	4.3	12.5
117	88	Rosehl (A)	113	...	2.9	15.5
265	205	Sig	246	– 2	3.7	11.5
19	11	SHP	17	...	...	...
180	156	Sharpe & Fisher	157	...	4.0	12.5
43	16	Spring Ram	25	...	2.5	...
130	80	Tarmac	94½	+ ½	7.3	14.3
160	105	Titon	103	– 1	13.5	...
348	265	Travis, Perkins	343	+ 2	3.3	14.4
36	24	Tudor†	30	...	3.1	17.8
66	33	Waterhouse	43	+ 2	...	...
136	83	Wickes†	121	...	2.0	22.6
455	324	Wimpey†	434	– 1	2.8	14.6

CHEMICALS

198	146	Abrghtt & Wil	156	+ 2	4.8	16.4
157	109	Allied Colloids	125	+ 3	2.6	19.6
245	195	Amtex Ind†	205	– 2	3.5	13.4
73	47	Amtenay Gp	72	...	2.3	20.6
6147½	5130½	BASF Dkt	5495½	...	3.1	...
910	695	Bocny	910	+ 2	3.2	17.5
303	235	BTP	265	...	5.3	15.2
11714½	8141½	Bayer DM50	11711½	+ 18½	3.4	...
165	105	Biggdon	145	– 3	...	...
119	68	Brent Chems	88	...	5.9	18.6
278	200	Br Vita	216	+ 14	4.6	13.7
259	154	Canning (W)	230	...	4.3	14.8
1699½	952	Chemstar†	1065	...	5.0	17.6
397½	310	Croda	329	+ 4	3.4	14.3
230	125	Doelles	212	– 2	3.4	13.6
282	214	Elec & Everard	260	...	4.2	14.5
107	56	Exmo Colourf	95	...	2.8	20.7
224	114	Gibson	197	...	4.2	15.4
165	79	Hickson	79	– 5	6.6	7.5
1711½	6129½	Hoechst	6169	– 93½	3.1	...
2114	168	Holiday Chem	169	...	3.7	12.0
8465	660	ICI	748	– 2	4.8	14.2
360	189½	Inspec	328	...	1.8	22.9
159	97½	Kalon	108	...	5.3	12.3
852	599	Laporte	636	– 3	4.5	13.1
85	65	MTM	79	...	2.5	14.2
382	286	Manders	285	– 3	4.9	12.9
66	30	Mallcdest	37	...	5.4	13.6
518	382½	Mayadison	4107½	– ½	5.0	10.1
425	290	Pioneer	370	...	1.7	27.1
256	188	Scapa†	217	...	3.6	15.5
34	16	Syndicate Speak†	27	...	2.2	19.3
10127½	6952½	Takeda Chem	10489½	...	0.9	13.9
256	186	Wallington Hdg	248	...	3.4	19.0
1058	728	Wshtmnite R	983	– 5	2.8	16.7
374	262	Yorkr Chem	262	– 4	4.1	12.8
349	256	York Cstle	310	...	3.9	16.4

DISTRIBUTORS

107½	68½	ABI Lstsf	94	...	5.6	9.7
595	460	Adpt & Harvey†	465	– 5	5.3	9.1
21	13	Alexanders	17	+ 2	5.1	28.0
113	88	Applegrnd	93	...	8.1	10.0
...	3½	Ass Br Eng	3½	...	2.1	39.5
623	518	BSS Group†	548	– 5	4.6	15.6
39	31	Bamt	36	...	...	...
34½	19½	Bearing Power†	17	...	9.2	...
39	18	Bogod 'A'	38	...	3.4	9.2
663	345	Brammer	430	...	3.9	16.5
21	10½	Bringend Cpr	17½	...	1.4	...
86	78	Bill Fittings	81	...	4.9	12.3
270	215	Calleys	250	...	5.0	16.9
68	54	Central Mb	59	...	4.8	20.4
61	35	Cook (DC)	56	– 1	3.7	8.4
3520½	2220	Comm	3295	...	4.0	12.1
159	129	Dng Motors	139	– 2	7.1	10.4
598	503	Dennans B	504	...	1.9	11.1
501	397	Diplomat	410	...	4.4	...
358	236	Electrocomponent	358	+ 3	2.1	24.3
256	153	Eurodis Elec	255	+ 4	2.1	17.6
205	54	Evershdsr	95	– 5	15.6	3.8
120	87	European Mtrl	97	...	6.7	8.3
449	356	Evans Halshaw	398	...	3.8	10.9
725	512	Farnell Elect	722	+ 11	1.7	21.0
72	48	Fife Indmtal	66	...	6.2	10.8
244½	161	Gardner	174½	– ½	5.9	7.7
36½	16	Glenchemical	34	+ 1	1.1	...
218	134	Lonsho	175	– ½	3.2	24.2
173	113	McLeod Russell	171	...	4.7	...
44	34	Porter Chadbrn	41	...	5.6	14.0
601	430	Powell Dffrnt	435	– 15	7.2	17.9
152	133	Reprol	146	– 1	7.1	10.8
178	130	Sime Darbyf	165	+ 2	2.9	15.1
220	164	Stanley†	198	– 3	5.4	13.5
207	148	Tate Lyle	190	– 3	3.9	15.3
286	227	TI Group	269	– 1	2.6	15.1
270	214	Tomkins	262	...	4.1	14.6
76	18½	Trafalgar H	27	...	4.6	...
295	205	Unicorn	265	...	3.8	19.7
400	315	Wardle Storeprct	370	...	5.4	19.7
360	236	Wassall	345	– 6	3.3	13.9
200	162	Whitecroft	188	...	3.0	14.0
350	256½	Williams Hldg	322	...	5.3	15.0

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

175	117	Ashtead	117	– 3	8.3	9.4
353	235	Ardalgate	293	...	1.9	13.8
948	726½	Bnkon Hill	928	+ 6	2.6	21.1
348	231	BTR	331	+ 2	5.4	11.9
592	405	BATS	560	+ 2	3.1	12.7
270½	144	Berisford Intl	189	...	2.0	...
131	71	Bibby (JH)	115	...	6.2	...
51½	40½	Brierley Inv	51½	+ ½	6.5	2.8
948	743	Cbanior	798	...	4.8	13.2
974	685	Caradon	906	– 1	3.0	19.4
153	100	Grampian Hcg	134	...	5.5	15.1
243½	189½	Hanson†	189½	+ 2½	7.9	10.3
182½	135	Hansen Trstd	143	...	7.9	13.1
3179½	2591½	Hutch Whampo	3178½	+ 6	2.3	20.1
5844½	3411½	Jardine Matth	4294½	+ ½	3.2	24.5
37	36	Jourdan (T)	37	...	5.8	7.3
178	134	Lonsho	175	– ½	3.2	24.2
173	113	McLeod Russell	171	...	4.7	...
44	34	Porter Chadbrn	41	...	5.6	14.0
601	430	Powell Dffrnt	435	– 15	7.2	17.9
152	133	Reprol	146	– 1	7.1	10.8
178	130	Sime Darbyf	165	+ 2	2.9	15.1
220	164	Stanley†	198	– 3	5.4	13.5
207	148	Tate Lyle	190	– 3	3.9	15.3
286	227	TI Group	269	– 1	2.6	15.1
270	214	Tomkins	262	...	4.1	14.6
76	18½	Trafalgar H	27	...	4.6	...
295	205	Unicorn	265	...	3.8	19.7
400	315	Wardle Storeprct	370	...	5.4	19.7
360	236	Wassall	345	– 6	3.3	13.9
200	162	Whitecroft	188	...	3.0	14.0
350	256½	Williams Hldg	322	...	5.3	15.0

ELECTRICITY

754½	437½	East Midlands	739	+ 10	4.9	10.0
978	535	Eastern Grp	974	...	3.6	13.9
742½	411	Lucalex Elec	699½	+ 1	6.1	8.0
1035	631	Manweb	1025	...	3.9	10.3
790	441½	Midlands	788	+ 3	6.0	9.8
561	421½	National Power†	448	– 7	4.6	9.2
271	158	Nat Power PPS†	156	– 5	4.4	9.5
1047½	442	Northern Elec'V	985	...	3.5	10.7
1026	613	Nthn Ireland	456	...	3.5	10.7
1202	611	Norweb	1022	+ 1	3.5	10.7
699	457½	PowerGen†	519	– 5	4.1	9.5
399	176½	PowerGen (P.Pf)†	307	– 3	4.0	11.5
579	363	Hydro-Elec	559	+ ½	4.9	10.4
385½	306	Scottish Power	382	+ 2	5.5	10.1
574	434½	Scottish†	552	+ 2	5.5	10.3
644	501½	Sth Wales	631	...	4.8	9.6
977	548	Southern Elec	953	– 1	4.8	10.2
741½	465	Yorkshire Elec	693	– 5	5.5	8.7

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

577	292	Acatt	577	+ 3	1.7	21.0
226	77½	Acorn Comp	208	...	...	...
880	625	Admiral	796	– 3	1.3	20.8
290	195	Alba	268	+ 15	2.4	18.2
2965	1271	Amstrad	2954½	+ 3½	1.3	...
41	30	Arlen	38	...	2.3	17.4
131	77	Aztec	118	– 2½	2.4	16.3
521	116	Aztec	517	...	0.6	23.0
364	239	BICC†	355	– 7	5.9	15.6
258	225	Beales Hunter	238	...	5.4	12.6
523	423	Bkm	455	...	3.6	...
434	294	Brntchrgde	426	+ 2	2.7	19.4
1471½	1034½	BIS 'B'	1296½	...	3.9	11.6
621	423	Smiths Indt†	619	– 1	3.9	18.7
612	431	Spkmn-Sandys	608	– 1	2.5	16.9
293	227	Sterling Ind	283	– 2	3.4	12.8
463	329	TI	452	+ 7	2.5	20.7
101	62	Tinsley (E)	100	...	2.0	13.9
91	61	TransTec†	91	...	...	...
184	137	Tryton Lloyd†	140	...	6.2	10.4
18	14	Utd Indstry	15½	...	3.9	12.4
154	97	Vernon	11	...	0.9	...
283	162	Vickers	274	– 6	2.5	22.1
14½	6½	Vibers Grp	12	...	...	...

ENGINEERING

347	167	ABA	308	– 2	1.8	...
97	47½	APVT	75	...	5.1	...
257	24	Aero Hamble	140	...	1.4	...
158	133	Ash & Lacy	158	...	4.8	11.6
648	538	Atlas Equip	646	...	4.3	22.6
155	118	Ayrshire Metal	126	...	9.5	7.2
102	79	BI Group	102	...	5.9	12.9
187	112½	Babcock†	150	– 1	4.3	...
165	122	BMT	140	– 3	6.5	13.5
105	77	Barnes (Charles)	100	...	2.6	17.4
39½	29	Beaufort	37	...	5.1	6.3
180	90	Bodycote	90	...	7.0	...
421	308	Bodycote†	412	...	1.8	21.0
81	33	Booth Inds	40	– 1	...	...
31	13½	Brayshy	17½	...	4.2	17.0
1126	1020	Brown (J)	1126	...	4.1	15.8
1557½	1220½	Bdgeon 'A'	1295	...	2.4	20.7
1078½	736½	Bdgeon (AF) 'A'	1054½	...	2.0	10.0
2961	2035	Bdgeon Hldgs	2961	+ 4	3.5	14.2
171	88	Bryan Johnson	165	...	2.4	15.0
78	47	Finlay (James)†	65	...	6.1	25.9
17½	10	Global	15½	– 1	4.2	10.7
562	400	Greencore	562	+ 3	2.8	...
133	91	Hazlewood Fdst	98	+ 1	8.7	7.9
207	150	Hillsdown†	155	...	7.6	10.2
29½	22½	Holtzer†	26	+ ½	3.6	32.2
65	55	JU Group	56	+ 1	11.4	9.3
358	266	Linton Park	307	– 1	6.1	7.5
123	94	Matthews (B)	98	...	4.1	14.4
243	211	Nichols (JJH)	233	...	3.3	15.0
221	165	Nmn Footc	171	+ 1	6.6	...
14	8½	Nthmbrian Fe	11½	...	...	8.6
230	80	Pascoe's	110	...	...	...
57½	9	Pendleton (UK)	9½	...	...	...
83	60	Perkins Food	70	– 1	7.9	9.9
140	73	Seafield	98	...	...	...
147	84	Smiths Farm	147	...	2.9	11.8
78	35	Sims Food†	35	– 3	10.7	11.7
479	412	Tate & Lyle†	453	– 7	4.4	9.5
406	294	Tilbury Grp	402	+ 7	2.5	20.1
440	333	Unigate†	418	+ 1	5.7	14.1
1343	1124	Wellmerf	1317	– 10	2.8	16.0
9178½	7300	Unilever (NV)	9065½	– 9½	2.8	13.5
368	253	Utd Biscuits†	354	...	6.5	16.1
44	31	WT Foods	31	...	10.2	17.5
110	80	Yorkshire Food	80	...	5.6	9.1

HEALTHCARE

1070	770	Amersham†	865	– 7	2.5	19.5
102	43	Amgen	61	...	...	...
207	165	Assoc Nurng	168	...	2.3	12.9
307	258	Bespak	301	...	4.0	12.2
510	192	Bocrongas Ind	505	...	...	...
81	60	Care UK	73	...	0.4



■ THEATRE 1

Off the rails: *Trainspotting* brings a vision of disaffected youth to the West End



■ THEATRE 2

Winning hand: the fine new *According to Hoyle* explores the deceptive world of the poker player

THE TIMES ARTS



■ THEATRE 3

. . . and there are more superb performances as *The Glass Menagerie* reopens in the West End



■ TOMORROW

How will Alexandre Dumas' *The Tower* fare in a new staging at the Almeida?

THEATRE: No heroes, just heroin — **Andy Lavender** welcomes *Trainspotting* to the bright lights; plus London reviews

West End gets smack in the face



ANDRE CAMARA

Harry Gibson adapted Irvine Welsh's novel *Trainspotting* for the stage after becoming bored with the bona fide plays he was sent to read. The rest is lowlife history

Has there ever been a play as raw as *Trainspotting* in a West End theatre? The title suggests a pleasant light comedy about anoraks carrying packed lunches. But the signs outside the Ambassadors Theatre (where the play is in preview) proclaim that some will find the show disturbing. And the play's opening scene, in which a young man recounts how he messed the bed in all conceivable ways after a drunken binge, dispels any lingering illusions. Based on the cult novel by Irvine Welsh, *Trainspotting* vividly depicts the experiences — both blissful and devastating — of a group of unemployed young people in Edinburgh as they veer in and out of heroin addiction.

> "We don't do luvvie theatre in a Scots accent"

While Welsh's novels *The Acid House*, *Marabou Stork Nightmares* and *Trainspotting* have climbed the bestseller lists, the theatre adaptation of the latter has become a phenomenon in its own right. It started when Harry Gibson, a play-reader at Glasgow's Citizens Theatre, became so bored with the scripts he was being sent that he went into a bookshop and demanded something interesting. A few pages into Welsh's novel he knew he had struck gold. His adaptation enjoyed a sell-out run last year at the Citizens, transferred to the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh and then to London's Bush Theatre. He directed a revival at the Citizens earlier this year, which has subsequently been packing out English theatres from Liverpool to Leicester.

Welsh's next novel, *Ecstasy*, is due out in the spring, and the team that made the film of *Shallow Grave* is working on its own version of *Trainspotting*, due for release in February.

The novel is in 48 short sections, and Gibson has retained this jagged structure in his adaptation for the theatre. "It's a little bit like *The Canterbury Tales*," he says. "All these people are together, but they've all got a story to tell. There's a sense of a community building up in a fascinating way. It's a post-modern novel in that it throws away a straight narrative. You're just left to look at the fragments. A man will kick his pregnant girlfriend in the stomach, people will walk out of each other's lives and crash into them again. This fragmented feeling is what the life that Irvine is portraying is actually like."

When you consider that the subject matter includes opium suppositories, a cot death and HIV infection, it quickly becomes clear that this is not a standard piece of escapist entertainment. "The thought of doing this in the West End gives you a sense of triumph and a sense of subversion," Gibson says. "It's a kind of buzz to know that you're seeing this filthy piece of work in the home of *The Mousetrap*, as was, until it moved."

The whole project stands out by virtue of being dirty and different; somehow more *authentic*. Welsh is a Scot who knows intimately the worlds about which he writes. A former heroin user, he worked as a housing officer in Edinburgh and now lives in Amsterdam. Gibson himself is used to crossing between class barriers. He has what he accurately describes as an "ex-Oxford University accent", but professes a keen sense of his heritage as the son of a factory worker from Aberdeen.

Here, then, is a play which gives a voice to an underclass — and a Scottish underclass at that, rooted in the blasted environment of urban Edinburgh and Leith. Where writers and film-makers such as Alan Sillitoe, Jim Allen and Ken Loach presented visions of working-class England in the 1960s, a similar vigour and compassion is now found in the work of Scottish novelists such as Welsh, James Kelman and Iain Banks, whose books hum with vernacular energy. "The Scottish novelists' and intellectuals' use of language has always been very rich," Gibson says. "It's a bit like the Irish. You don't just say what you mean: you make it colourful, rich, compelling, moving, violent and thrilling." It is not surprising, he suggests, that Scotland's storytelling tradition is more deeply ingrained than its theatre tradition.

"A culture of plays didn't really start until the 1930s, when the original Citizens company and the Clyde Unity company started doing socialist theatre," he says. "In fact, there's always been a socialist edge to modern theatre in Scotland. We don't do luvvie theatre in a Scots accent very much." The last accusation that you could level at *Trainspotting* is that it is a luvvie play. The comedy is hard-edged and there is no comforting moral viewpoint imposed on the events depicted. Is it, then, a socialist piece? "It is socialist in the way that Scots mean 'socialist', which means it's just a play with a great sense of honouring its roots among working people," Gibson says. "But it doesn't have a *Guardian*-reading, somewhat patronising agenda about what we should do and feel. It's written from within the culture, where everybody's saying: 'This is us, listen to us'."

They are now saying it from a West End stage. According to Gibson, Welsh "doesn't like novels, doesn't approve of the theatre particularly, and sees them as essentially bourgeois art forms". For all that, he might take some delight in the latest home for his remarkable story.

● *Trainspotting is at the Ambassadors Theatre (0171 836 6111/1171) until Jan 27*

Jokers and wild cards are aces

According to Hoyle
Hampstead

Any journalist will tell you that if something happens once it is an event, and if it happens twice it is a trend; but we must not read too much into the fact that the past year has produced two good comedies about poker schools. What this surely proves is that the game is a good excuse for bringing restless, maverick and therefore interesting men into a room to expose their psyches, indulge in entertaining banter and maybe teach us a little about cards.

Patrick Marber's *Dealer's Choice* offered all that, plus the odd insight into loneliness and gambloholism. William Gaminara's emphasis in *According to Hoyle* is even more directly linked with the game that gave us the phrase "poker-face". Whether his people are playing boyish pranks on each other as solemnly as they can, or dealing in life-lies, the subject is the same. It is deception.

Another characteristic of poker, especially useful to British dramatists, seems to be its relative classlessness. Marber had a lot of fun with Mugsy, a gormless waiter with a place in the card school run by his proprietor. Here, an upmarket writer called Chris (Nick Dunning) cheerfully cohabits with someone he would snub on the street: Peter-Hugo Daly's Eddie, a pop musician who looks as if he has mislaid a couple of teeth and half his brains while escaping from the monkey-house.

Gaminara cannot resist sending up this character and his strangely successful sexual exploits; but you forgive him, for he has a gift for funny dialogue and does not lose sight of the tribulations of the other gamesters. Trevor Cooper's Kevin, a rough, roly-poly actor who specialises in playing cops, turns out to be a surreptitious cross-dresser. Jonathan Coy's sly, self-indulgent Clive assumes the latest of his wives is bluffing him, poker-style, when she threatens to leave. Robert Glenister's Micky, envious of Chris's growing fame and secretly unsure of his sexuality, ends up committing suicide.

I am not giving away the play's own secrets by revealing this, for it opens after Micky's death and keeps cutting back to poker nights of old. That might cause confusions. But there is only one problem with Gaminara's handling of the central deception, which involves Eddie's seduction of Clive's teenage daughter and Clive's mistaken belief that Eddie has bedded his wife. That is not a lack of clarity or tension, but a failure to convince us that Clive is almost murderously jealous.

In 1992 Gaminara wrote *Back up the Hearse and let them Sniff the Flowers*, a play about hucksters indebted to David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross*. His fascination with males at play in *According to Hoyle* suggests the same influence; yet the ending, which unpretentiously proclaims the virtues of honesty and maturity, shows his mind is his own.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Brilliance undimmed

The Glass Menagerie
Comedy

THE fire escape was praised when this production opened at the Donmar Warehouse last September. It zigzagged down the rear wall and wound behind the seats so that any character approaching the shabby Wingfield apartment could be seen by us long before he arrived at the front door. Of more importance to the play's sorrowful mood, a departing character stamped along the metal walkway like the pitiless beats of fate.

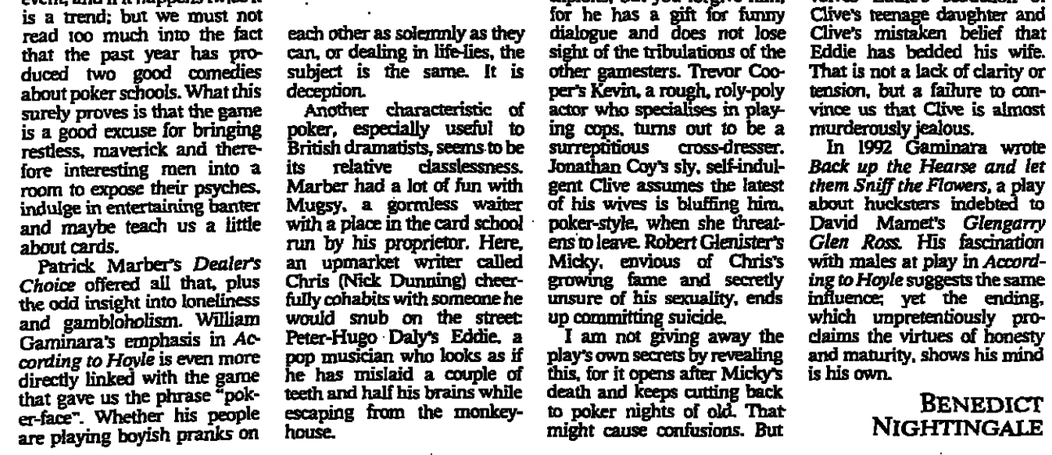
Sam Mendes's exquisite Tennessee Williams production moves into its new home with its cast unchanged except for a switch in Bens — Walden for Chaplin. Rob Howell's fire escape is still prominent, but here it follows the curve of the dress circle. Its safety rail can mask an onstage face, and the stand displaying Laura's glass animals is not easy to see from every seat, but these difficulties are forgivable as the price to be paid for the sense that long walkway gives of the isolation in which Tom, Laura and their mother exist.

In his role as narrator, Walden begins by sounding oddly curt, blurting out his criticism of 1930s America. But it is a voice held tight to contain the intensity of feeling and, in his closing speech, having steeled himself to be selfish and escape the imprisoning home, his words are choked with tears.

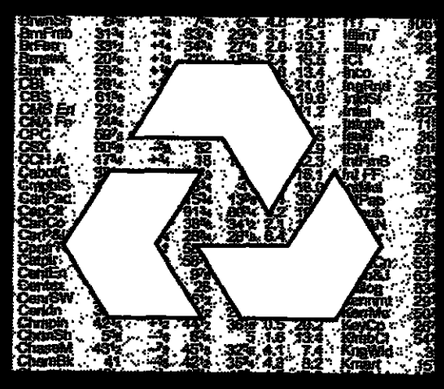
Zoë Wanamaker looks young as Amanda, whose fussy attention is driving her son out of the house and sending her timid daughter deeper into a protective shell. But this is because we have become accustomed to seeing her played as a woman on the downward slope of life, whereas she need not be beyond her mid-40s. Wanamaker shows us how stifling Amanda's over-loving care has grown to be, yet never makes her remotely a grotesque, nor even a figure of fun.

In her wonder at the gentleman caller's kindly words (a sure performance from Mark Dexter), and in her shocked discovery that he will not call again, Claire Skinner's Laura is heart-catchingly poignant in a tough, delicate masterpiece.

JEREMY KINGSTON



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CHOICE 1

Sam Mendes opens his new staging of Sondheim's *Company*

VENUE: From tonight at the Donmar Warehouse



CHOICE 2

Zubin Mehta conducts a tribute to Sir John Barbirolli

VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Hall

THE TIMES
ARTS



OPERA

The ENO's *La Belle Vivette* is a fun show for Christmas — but a long way from Offenbach



POP

A compelling live show from Curtis Stigers dispels the gloom of his last album

Offenbach the musical, by Frayn

LONDON

COMPANY Opening night for Sheila Gish and Adrian Lester in the cast of 14 for Sondheim's bittersweet musical on love, relationships and staying single. Another Sam Mendes production where even the previews sell out, so early booking is strongly recommended. **Donmar Warehouse**, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

MAESTRO CONDUCTS MAESTRO Zubin Mehta leads pianist Daniel Barenboim and the London Philharmonic in tribute to one of this century's greatest conductors, Sir John Barbirolli. Tonight's concert features Brahms's Piano Concerto No 2 and Elgar's Symphony No 1, in aid of the Barbirolli Memorial Foundation and the Philharmonic's Benevolent Fund. **Festival Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THREE TALL WOMEN Final week for Maggie Smith, Sara Kestelman and Samantha Bond in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who withered his childhood. A riveting portrait of cantankerous old age. **Wyndhams**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tonight-Sat, 8pm; mats today and Sat 3pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM Simon Rattle and the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** offer both a premiere and a superstar baritone tonight: Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis* opens the programme, followed by the latest Feeney Trust commission, Judith Weir's *Forest*, and tenor Peter Seiffert and baritone Thomas Hampson performing Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*. **Symphony Hall**, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm.

ST ANDREWS AND GLASGOW Treat yourself to the flavour of Austria tonight with a programme of Mozart in Salzburg: Divertimento in D major, Sinfonia Concertante in E flat, Bassoon Concerto, and Symphony No 34. Raymond Leppard and the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**. Meanwhile, **Scottish Ballet** sweep aside handsome princes and snowflakes for Tinkerbell and magic dust in *Peter Pan*.

Younger Hall, St Andrews (SCO) (0131-668 2019/ 01334-474 610). Thurs. **Edinburgh**, Queen's Hall (0131-668 2019); Fri, **Glasgow**, City Hall (0141-227 5511). **Theatre Royal** (Ballet), Hope Street (0141-332 9000). Tonight, 7.15pm; until Dec 30.

FALMOUTH I am making no judgements but there is a certain amount of intrigue in calling your production **Beauty and the Beast from Mars**. Described simply as a sci-fi version of the classic story. For those wanting more traditional fare and not minding a drive, *Mother Goose* is at Theatre Royal, Plymouth from Sat. **Arts Centre**, Church Street (01326-314 566). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum, Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster (0171-636 1555) . . . **National Gallery**: Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait Gallery**: Richard and Maria Cosway (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy**: David Hockney Drawing Retrospective (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate**: Art Now 4: Mairolaw Balka (0171-887 8000) . . . **V&A**: Jain Art from India: Back of the Envelope: famous art and design scribbles (0171-938 8500) . . . **Whitechapel**: Emil Nolde (0171-522 7888).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Clive Francis plays Scrooge in Ian Judge's popular but over-sweet production. **Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, most mats sold out. Until Jan 13.

☐ **CYRANO** The bittersweet love-story rethought as a battle within the Indian film industry. Bollywood star Naseeruddin Shah is a two hero, and Ranjit Bolt's jokes are neat, but the new conflicts can't match those in the original. **National** (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight, 7.30pm, Thurs, 2.30 and 7.30pm.

◪ **DESIRE UNDER THE ELMS** Shared Experience back in town with O'Neill's passionate drama of father-son rivalry and forbidden love. Nancy Meckler directs powerful acting, updated to Ireland in the 1950s. **Tricycle**, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Tonight-Sat, 8pm; mats Sat, 4pm. Final week.

☐ **HYSTERIA** Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London. **Duke of York's**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2pm.

◪ **JOLSON** The highs and lows of the singer with with a monster ego. Brian Conley belts out the songs; Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler. **Victoria Palace**, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **THE JUNGLE BOOK** Tim Supple directs his adaptation of three of Kipling's Mowgli stories. **Young Vic**, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Today, 1.30pm.

☐ **THE MASTER BUILDER** Peter Hall's sexually understated production. Alan Bates the smouldering hero; fine performances by Gemma Jones and Victoria Hamilton. **Theatre Royal**, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB** Another Donmar transfer. English Touring Theatre's production of Jonathan Harvey's thoughtful and passionate play, set in an Easy London bedsit where most of the characters have love troubles. **Criterion**, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-839 4488). Previews began tonight, 8pm. Opens Dec 19, 7pm.

◪ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE** A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee. **Vaudeville**, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm.

◪ **THE STREETS OF DUBLIN** One of Dion Boucicault's greatest hits, adapted by Fergus Linehan as a play within a play, so becoming an affectionate send-up of the theatre and its traditions. A Dublin Festival success. **Brixton Shaw**, Brixton Hill, SW2 (0171-274 6470). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Dec 18, 7.30pm.

◪ **THE TOWER** Alexandre Dumas' romantic melodrama, with Sinead Cusack as a scheming Queen Marguerite, and Adrian Dunbar as the agent of her downfall. Howard Davies directs a version by Charles Wood. **Almeida**, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

◪ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Less amazing stage effects here but still delightful. **Old Vic**, Waterloo Rd, SE1 (0171-928 8555). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, daily in week of Dec 26, 2.30pm.

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre. **Availability at time of going to press; check box office.**

NEW RELEASES

◆ **THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT** (15) What happens when the widowed President gets a girlfriend? Not much, even with Michael Douglas and Annette Bening. Director: Rob Reiner. **Empire** ◪ (0171-437 1234); **MGM Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636); **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031); **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666); **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772); **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332).

ANGELS AND INSECTS (18) Procreative games in Victorian England. Handsome but stiff drama, with Mark Rylance, Patsy Kensit and Kristin Scott Thomas. Director: Philip Haas. **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720); **MGM Fulham** (0171-370 2636); **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098).

THE BROTHERS McMULLEN (15) Irish-Americans agonise over love, commitment and beer. Modest feature debut by writer-director-actor Edward Burns. **Gate** ◪ (0171-727 4043); **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520).

DR. JEKYLL AND MS. HYDE (12) Brash and unfunny comic update of Stevenson's story, with Tim Daly and Sean Young. Director: David Price. **MGM Haymarket** (0171-839 1527); **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332); **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343).

UNSTRUNG HEROES (PG) Diane Keaton directs this eccentric heart-warmer about a boy's charmed life with crazy relatives. With Nathan Witt, Andie MacDowell, John Turturro. **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **Screen/Hill** ◪ (0171-435 3566).

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

CURRENT

◆ **CRIMSON TIDE** (15) Antique heroics in a nuclear submarine, with Gene Hackman and Denzel Washington. Director, Tony Scott. **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772); **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096); **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031); **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666); **Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683); **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (792 3332).

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12) Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A no-frowning thriller with a sense of humour; with Sean Bean. Director, Martin Campbell. **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891); **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323); **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772); **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096); **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636); **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666); **Leicester Square** (01426 915683); **Marble Arch** (01426 915501); **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098); **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332).

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (15) Actors struggle to mount *Hamlet*. Over-manic comedy from Kenneth Branagh, with Michael Maloney, Joan Collins. **Barbican** ◪ (0171-638 8891); **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096); **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148); **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353); **Kensington** (01426 914666); **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098); **Richmond** (0181-332 0030); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121).

MY DARLING CLEMENTINE (U) John Ford's wonderful 1946 western about Wyatt Earp, with Henry Fonda, Linda Darnell and Victor Mature. **Renoir** (0171-837 8402).

◆ **THE SANTA CLAUSE** (U) Divorced dad becomes the new Santa. Broad family comedy with a human face, featuring Tim Allen. **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096); **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666); **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098); **West End** (01426 915574); **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332).

SISTER MY SISTER (15) Nancy Meckler's modest chamber piece about a stifling French household. With Joely Richardson, Jodhi May, Julie Walters. **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527); **Tottenham Court Rd** (0171-636 6148).

◆ **TO DIE FOR** (15) Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon. **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666); **Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683); **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098); **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343).

OPERA

La Belle Vivette
Coliseum

DONALD COOPER



Lesley Garrett sings extremely well as Vivette but lacks earthiness, displaying instead an Ivor Novello-style charm

A double-revolve whizzes around almost continuously, ferrying John Gunter's sets in and out in dizzying counter-motion — those bits of them that aren't flying in and out, that is. There are many costume changes, courtesy of Deirdre Clancy, and the decor could be described as Second-Empire Lavish filtered through British Sensibility (it's all a bit clean). The huge English National Opera company is as busy as the sets, their activity brilliantly organised by the director Ian Judge, a past master at this sort of thing.

Having openly surrendered to amplification of the voices, the Coliseum has done it extremely well — infinitely better than in last season's ill-starred *Mahagonny* — and it is quite rightly mentioned in the programme. If you do it, flaunt it, though in fact you can hardly tell it's happening. But it's a useless precaution: either singers sing words or they don't, and microphones can't change that. But the ENO has got itself a whiz-bang, spectacular Christmas show to rival anything in the West End. If only it did not have Offenbach's name attached to it.

You have to admire Michael Frayn's ingenuity in providing a new script to fit the music of *La Belle Hélène*. In brief, it is about mounting an operetta. Vivette is the Hortense Schneider-style star as Helen; her protector M. Ploc is Menelaus; the impresario M. Calcul is Calchas, the composer M. Berger (geddit?) is Paris, etc. If a number cannot be made to fit the new scenario, then it can be presented as an extract from the show — dashed clever. The complete script is printed in the programme after the manner of the Royal Court, a useful precaution in that you can at least relish later those Frayn witticisms that you cannot hear.

There are one or two oddities. Much play was made in advance of West End audiences being unable to understand classical allusions, this being the main reason for the new script, but they are expected to recognise a duet from Meyerbeer's *Huguenots* in one of two interpolations that should be cut forthwith. (The first act takes a long time to get going.) There is also some heavy-breathing in the programme about the Franco-Prussian War, which is not followed through, mercifully.

The real problem is the watering down of the leading roles. Offenbach's Helen is a royal nymphomaniac; Frayn's Vivette is a romantic lead, and so is his Paris, in the original the ultimate macho-tenor joke. It was sad to see Lesley Garrett's potential earthiness watered down to mere Ivor Novello-style charm, and Neill Archer as just a juvenile lead, though both sing extremely well.

The original script is a masterpiece of smutty innuendo, but there is nothing here to bring a blush to the cheek of the most demure maiden aunt, unless it be half a dozen living statues, the girls topless, the boys near bottomless. Instead we get Pavarotti jokes, surtitles jokes, Brünnhilde jokes, and the whole thing is about as sexy as cold blancmange. A timeless, ultra-sophisticated masterpiece of social satire is reduced to the level of early evening television light entertainment.

But it is well conducted by James Holmes — the first two notes of the famous waltz are the wittiest event of the whole evening — and there are some engaging performances: Rosemary Ashe (Zouzou) manages to bring a welcome whiff of vulgarity to proceedings, and both Christopher Booth-Jones (Agamemnon) and Andrew Shore (Calchas) get every word across. Ryland Davies and Francis Egerton are sadly underused.

I promised myself not to mention Scottish Opera's recent *Belle Hélène*, brilliantly translated by John Wells, but that was the real thing, and this is not. It's a perfectly good Christmas show as long as you forget Offenbach.

RODNEY MILNES

Yesterday's man very much alive and kicking

POP

Curtis Stigers
Empire, W12

IN 1992, the American singer and saxophonist Curtis Stigers seemed to have all the career riches a man could require, as his eponymous debut album went double platinum in Britain and stacked up world sales of two million. Ecstatic reviews of his live performances followed; he even had a song on *The Bodyguard*, the best-selling soundtrack album ever.

But his overdue 1995 follow-up, *Time Was*, has done a passable imitation of a dodo. Reading between the lines of a conversation with him on the eve of its release, it is possible now to detect signs of a certain struggle between the artist and his masters. Arista Records clearly wanted more of the stylish but smooth-cut ballads that turned the first album into precious metal. Stigers, who built his reputation as a hard-gigging barroom survivor, felt he had earned the opportunity to stretch himself.

Stigers's celebrity still allows him on to a stage with Van Morrison and a certain sax-mad American president — as happened in Ireland recently — but, in a hit-free zone, his London gig atmosphere was less fervid than that of three years ago. But the artist turned those reduced circumstances into a victory.

The live performance of material that on record is sometimes overloaded with sentiment is like real coffee without the sugar: sharper to the taste but a greatly heightened experience. He hit his stride immediately with a canny version of the first album's *Sleeping with the Lights On* and illuminated *Somebody in Love*, one of the by-the-numbers tracks on the current record, with his magnetic stagecraft and the help of a drum-tight band.

The audience cheered the first note of any song from the debut album, such as *Never Saw a Miracle*, *You're all that Matters to Me* and the introductory hit that remains his theme tune, *I Wonder Why*.

But, to illustrate the versatility that Arista must now encourage, there was a spiky and soulful take on Nick Lowe's *Peace, Love and Understanding*, which was included on the 30 million-selling soundtrack to *The Bodyguard*. There is more to this man than we have been allowed to hear.

PAUL SEXTON

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

A MAJOR EXHIBITION of Russian & soviet art at the Roy Miles Gallery, 29 Bruton Street, W1. 0171-495 4747

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COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr) **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** Tonight, Tomor 7.30 **LA BELLE VIVETTE**

OPERA & BALLET

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets available on the day. **The Royal Opera** Tonight, 7.30 (Last Night) **TOSCA** Sat, Tue 7.30 **AIDA** **The Royal Ballet** Tomor 7.30 (Last Night) Balanchine's **APOLLO/MacMillan's SIDE SHOW/Balanchine's DUO CONCERTANT/Page's FEARFUL SYMMETRIES** Fri, Mon 7.30 **TWYLA THARP** **ROSSINI BALLET**

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 071 960 4242 **ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET** **THE NUTCRACKER** 18 December-6 January **SWAN LAKE** 8 -13 January

THEATRES

ALBERY BO 0171 369 1730 cc 0171 344 4444 (no b/kg fee) Grp 0171 413 3311 **"FIVE STAR SHOW ...IRRESISTIBLE"** D.Exp **FIVE GUYS** **NAMED MOE** **SIXTH STOMPING YEAR** Mon-Thu 8pm Fri & Sat 6 & 8.45 **LAST 5 WEEKS** Fri & Sat 8pm perf:Top 4 prices 2 for 1 No Performance Mon 25 Dec

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 **Andrew Lloyd Webber's** **New production of** **STARLIGHT EXPRESS** **"A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT"** Daily Mail Whole knuckle runs 10.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

ADELPHI **"ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE"** Wall St Journal **SUNSET BOULEVARD** **Winner of 7 Tony Awards including** **BEST MUSICAL** Starring **ELAINE PAIGE** 24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 0171 344 0055 (b/kg fee) GRP BOOKING 413 3302 (b/kg fee) No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers Recorded information 0171 379 6884 Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALDWYCH cc 0171 416 6003 0171 420 0000 (no fee) Evgs 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.0 **NIAMH CUSACK** **MARGARET TYZACK** **PAUL BHATTACHARJEE** **INDIAN INK** **"TOM STOPPARD'S TRIUMPH - A BEAUTIFUL AND FUNNY FIREBALL OF A PLAY TO ILLUMINATE THE WEST END"** Today. Directed by **PETER WOOD** **LAST 4 WEEKS ENDS JAN 6**

AMBASSADORS 836 6111/420 0100/344 4444 For 7 weeks only **TRAINSPOTTING** Award-winning play from Irvine Welsh's novel "Feverishly Funny" Guardian Mon-Fri at 8 Sat 5 & 8.30 Wed Mat at 5 Press Night this Fri 7.00pm

APOLLO 494 5068/344 4444/420 0000. Evgs 8, Mats Thu 3, 5 & 8.15 **HAYLEY MILLS** **"Magnificent"** F.T **JENNY SEAGROVE** **"Impeccable"** Times **DEAD GUILTY** **"Richard Harris' new play is THE PERFECT THRILLER"** S.Times

BLOOMSBURY THEATRE B/O C.C 0171 388 8822 From Dec 18 Mon-Fri 11.30 & 3.00 W/C Dec 25 Tue-Sat 11.30 & 3.00 **SOOTY AT CHRISTMAS**

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL 12 - 16 Dec **A PASSIONATE WOMAN** The Smash Hit Comedy Direct from London's West End BOOK ON 01243 781312

COMEDY BO & cc 0171 369 1731 cc 0171 420 0000 (no b/kg fee) **ZOE WANAMAKER in THE GLASS MENAGERIE** by **TENNESSEE WILLIAMS** Directed by **Sam Mendes** Evgs 7.30 Mats Sat 3.00 LIMITED SEASON Extra Mats 28 Dec & 4 Jan at 3pm No Perfs 25, 26 Dec & 1 Jan

CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5064 cc (no b/kg fee) 312 1932/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454 **FAME** **THE MUSICAL** **"FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH"** Mail On Sunday **"BREATHTAKING"** Independent Evgs 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 3pm No Performance Mon 25 Dec

CRITERION 369 1747/420 0000/ 344 4444 **JONATHAN HARVEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT** **RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB** **"wickedly funny...brilliantly comic"** D.Mail Tues-Sat 8, Sat 4, Sun 3 & 7 **NB Two Sunday perfs!!** **OPENS TONT**

DOMINION Ticketlines 0171 416 6060/ 0171 420 0000 (b/kg fee). Grps 0171 416 6075/413 3321/420 0200 **GREASE** Starring **SHANE RICHIE** and **SAMANTHA JANUS** **"Fast, furious & fun, fun, fun."** Daily Mirror Evgs 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3pm **TICKETS AVAILABLE - APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE** Extra Mat 28 Dec 3pm

DUCHESS cc 0171 494 5070 cc 344 4444 (no b/kg fee)/836 2428 (b/kg fee) 0171-413 3321 Evgs 8pm, Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30 **"A SAUCY COMEDY"** E. Std **NOW IN ITS 5th YEAR** **DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER** **"Gloriously Outrageous"** T.Out

DUKE OF YORK'S 0171 836 5122/8837 cc 420 0000/344 4444 (24 hrs, no fee) **ROYAL COURT CLASSICS** Henry Goodman, Aisling O'Sullivan, Fred Pearson, Tim Potter **HYSTERIA** Terry Johnson's "custard pie of comic brilliance" Time Out **BEST COMEDY** **OLIVER AWARD** **FOR 7 WEEKS ONLY** Evgs 7.30, Mats Thu & Sat 3pm

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL SS cc (B'kg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000 **MISS SAIGON** **"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"** **NOW IN ITS 7TH SENSATIONAL YEAR!** Evgs 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 3pm No performance Mon 25 Dec **Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O. FOR TELEPHONE/POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS 0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)**

HAYMARKET 930 8800 cc 344 4444/420 0000 (b/kg fee) THE PETER HALL COMPANY **ALAN BATES** **GEMMA JONES** 'superb'Times 'marvellous'Gdn **THE MASTER BUILDER** 'Peter Hall's fine new staging'D.Tel 'Not to be missed on any account' S.Tms. **FOR 4 WEEKS ONLY** Mon-Sat 7.45, Mats Wed, Sat 3pm

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (b/kg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (b/kg fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/830 6123 **ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL** **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** Directed by HAROLD PRINCE **NOW BACK TO 28 SEPT 96** Evgs 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00. Apply to Box Office daily for returns Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 3.00 No perf Mon 25 Dec

GIELGUD Shaftesbury Ave Inc cc 0171 494 5530 (no b/kg fee) cc 0171 344 4444 (no b/kg fee) Groups 0171 494 5454 **JULIA McKENZIE** **COMMUNICATING DOORS** by **ALAN AYCKBOURN** **"A MELODRAMATIC COMEDY THRILLER WONDERFULLY FUNNY AND GENUINELY SCARY"** D.Tel **"with the audience in turn ROARING WITH LAUGHTER AND LEAPING FORWARD IN FRIGHT"** Independent Evgs 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 No Performance Mon 25 Dec

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/0171 312 8033 **DAVID BURKE** **ANDREW HAVILL** **Susan Hill's** **THE WOMAN IN BLACK** Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt **"A real thrill of horror"** S.Times **NOW IN ITS 7TH YEAR** Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm

FORTUNE 0171 836 2238 From 13 Dec, A Magical Xmas Show **THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP** **"A real treat for 3-9 year olds"** Gdn

FORTUNE 0171 836 2238 **"A real treat for 3-9 year olds"** Gdn **THE ENCHANTED TOYSHOP** Opens today at 1.30 & 3.30

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/ 0171 312 1990 (no b/kg fee) **WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS** **The Royal National Theatre production** JB Priestley's **AN INSPECTOR CALLS** **"THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN"** D.Mail **"ONE OF THE MOST INTOXICATING, THEATRICALLY IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCES OF THE 1990s"**E.S **"TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA"**D.Tel **FINAL LONDON SEASON** Mon-Fri 7.45, Sat 5.00 & 8.15, Wed mat 2.30

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 tkt serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3321 **JIM DALE** **RETURNS TO THE WEST END** **"A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT"** Daily Mail **OLIVER!** **2ND SPECTACULAR YEAR** **'LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE'** S.Times Evgs 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30 Extra Mat Thur 28 Dec at 2.30 No Performance Mon 25 Dec **SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS**

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252. Grps 0171 620 0741,24hr cc b/kg fee 0171 420 0000 **OLIVIER** Tonight 7.15, Tomor 2.00 & 7.15 **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC** Music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, book by Hugh Wheeler **LYTTLETON** Tonight (PREVIEW) 7.30 Tomor (PRESS NIGHT) 7.00 **ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD** Tom Stoppard **COTTESLOE** Tonight 7.30, Tomor 2.30 & 7.30 **CYRANO** Edmond Rostand, adapted by Jatinder Verma, rendered into verse by Ranjit Bolt, Tonight 6pm, **PLATFORM: A TRIBUTE TO PAUL EDDINGTON**

LYRIC Shafts Ave BO/cc 0171 494 5560 cc 0171 344 4444 (no b/kg fee) **Nichola McAuliffe** **Graham Turner** **and Frank Thornton** **HOBSON'S CHOICE** by Harold Brighouse **"MAGNIFICENT...an evening that brims with laughter"** D.Tel **"Frank Hauser's deliciously piquant revival is A DELIGHT"** Std Evgs 7.30 Mats Sat 3.00 No Performance Mon 25 Dec **EXTENDED TO 3 FEB**

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079 24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000 Grps 0171 413 3311/830 6123 **THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/ T S ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL** **CATS** Evgs 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 Extra Mats 27, 28 Dec at 3pm No Mat 26 Dec No Performance Mon 25 Dec **LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT** Bars open at 6.45 **LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.**

PLAYHOUSE 0171 839 4401 /0171 420 0000/0171 344 4444 **AN ALL STAR CAST IN RAY COONEY'S NEW COMEDY HIT** **FUNNY MONEY** **"LAUGHS GALORE...A WINNER"**D. Exp **"Better than Feydeau...priceless"**D. Tel Mon-Sat 8.00, Mats Thu 3.00, Sat 5.00 **THEATRE RESTAURANT** 0171 930 9445 **EXTRA MAT 27 DEC AT 3**

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5972/420 0232/344 4444/416 6052 Grps 0171 420 0200/413 3321 **TOMMY STEELE** **WHAT A SHOW** **'Tommy's Show packs Flash, Bang, Wallop'** Eve Standard Evgs Mon-Sat 8pm, Mats Wed 3pm Sat 5pm **For a Limited Season**

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 734 8951 cc (24hr no b/kg fee) First Call 420 0100 / 0171 344 4444 Groups 930 6123. **BEST MUSICAL** **Laurence Olivier Awards 93** **"YOU'D BE CRAZY TO MISS IT"** D.Mail **CRAZY FOR YOU** **"IS A GREAT, GLORIOUS, GLAMOROUS GOLDMINE OF A SHOW"** S Times Evgs 7.45, Mats Thu & Sat 3.00 Extra Mat Wed 27 Dec at 3pm No Performance Mon 25 Dec **GOOD SEATS AVAILABLE THIS WEEK**

OLD VIC 0171 928 6855/312 8084 **The Royal National Theatre's** **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** **"AN ABSOLUTE WINNER"**Time Out **MATCHLESS PERFORMANCES... UTTERLY ENCHANTING...A SMALL MASTERPIECE"**Daily Mail **"A WONDERFUL EVENING"**F.T **"AN IRRESISTIBLE PIECE OF THEATRE"**LNR **Some Good Seats Still Available Before Christmas** Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat mats 2.30pm

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (b/kg fee) 0171-344 4444 Grps 0171 413 3311 **THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL** **LES MISERABLES** **NOW IN ITS 11TH RECORD-BREAKING YEAR** Evgs 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Extra Mat Wed 27 Dec at 2.30 No Performance Mon 25 Dec Latecomers not admitted until the interval **LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE**

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733 /344 4444/420 0000 (fee) **BEST MUSICAL** **ALL 4 MAJOR AWARDS** **DAVID CASSIDY STARS FOR 4 WEEKS ONLY IN WILLY RUSSELL'S** **BLOOD BROTHERS** **STEPHANIE LAWRENCE** **CARL WAYNE** **...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval"** D.Mail Evgs 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4 **EXTRA MAT 27 DEC AT 3**

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734 cc 24hrs 344 4444, Grps 312 1970/413 3321 ***WINNER!*** **BEST MUSICAL** **Evening Standard Award '96** **"ONE OF THE BEST MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS LONDON HAS SEEN FOR YEARS"** D.Express **"JERRY HERMAN'S WONDERFUL BURST OF MUSICAL FIREWORKS"** D.Mail **MACK & MABEL** **THE HOLLYWOOD ROMANCE** Mon-Sat at 7.45, Mats Wed & Sat at 3.00

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400 First Call 420 0100 (24hr B'kg fee) 344 4444 Groups 420 0200 Cameron Mackintosh presents **MARTIN GUERRE** A New Musical by **BOUBIL & SCHONBERG** **FROM 22 MAY 1996**

QUEENS BO/CC (£1 b'kg fee) 0171 494 5040/344 4444 Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri 8.45pm & Sat 8pm & 8.45pm **LILY SAVAGE** **PRISONER CELL-BLOCK H** **THE MUSICAL** **"Hilarious"**F.T. **"A Huge Hit - A Christmas Smash"**Obs **5 WEEKS ONLY!** Stalls & D.C. £12.50-£24.00, Upper Circle £8.50

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (0171 638 8891) BARBICAN: **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** Tom't 7.15 THE PIT: **CAIN** Tom't 7.15 **STRATFORD** (01789 295623) RST: **THE TAMING OF THE SHREW** Tom't 7.30 SWAN: **THE RELAPSE** Tom't 7.30 TOP: **THE PHOENICIAN WOMEN** Tomor 1.30

SAVOY THEATRE 0171 836 8888 cc 420 0000 grps 312 1970 No b/kg fee **BELINDA LANG** **KEVIN McNALLY** in Terry Johnson's award winning comedy **DEAD FUNNY** **"Blissfully Witty and Wicked"** Eve Stand Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.15pm Set mat 5pm & Wed mat 2.30pm

SHAFTESBURY 0171 379 5399 344 4444 (24hr/b'kg fee) - **IT'S BACK - 4 WEEKS ONLY** **19 DEC-13 JAN INC MATS** **RETURN TO THE** **FORBIDDEN PLANET** THE COSMIC XMAS PARTY "deliriously addictive" D.Tel Mon-Thurs 8.00, Fri

هكذا من الأصل



■ BUILDINGS

Is it worth £170 million? Doubts grow about the Rogers "crystal palace" at the South Bank



■ OFFER

Take advantage of our Theatre Club prices for the BBC festival of music by Charles Ives

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC

The admirable Swedish mezzo Anne Sofie von Otter returns to the classic repertoire



■ YOUNG ARTS

A Chilean band and a Birmingham gallery bring a healing touch to children in need

Children paint the pain away

Hilary Finch on an art-and-music treatment that is helping young hospital patients in Birmingham

There is a strange, claw-like scratching and rattling. But goats don't have claws. Cloven hoofs: pieces of horn and hoof. That's right: 15 or 20 of them, clicking together in a maracca-like shaker, with the sound of a pan-pipe wheeling above. Not easy to identify when you are four years old: even harder when illness and trauma have deprived you of speech.

A sharp-eyed education officer at Birmingham's Ikon Gallery spotted a rainforest project at the city's Children's Hospital School; caught an echo from his gallery's own current exhibition of chicano, Irish and Mexican art; and linked the two together through the music-making of the Chilean band Caliche.

YOUNG AT art

Now, every Friday, the musicians play: rainmakers are built from long cardboard tubes filled with cocktail sticks; and thick, syrupy paint in all the colours of an Aztec rainbow are stroked, dripped and drizzled on to any number of decorative surfaces.

The children, aged between three and 13, can be in the middle of a long-term stay in hospital, or waiting for referral, or simply waiting to go home. Some suffer from heart disease or cancer, others from psychosis, post-viral fatigue syndrome or anorexia. Many pay visits to the Ikon Gallery itself: others join weekly workshops in ward or school with the artist Kate Wrigglesworth. The stern Victorian hospital building is animated with vibrant sound and colour; the gallery is seldom without a group of excited visitors.

Peter Hodgkinson, ward manager of the child psychiatry unit of long-stay patients, a microcosm of society's ills which forms the core of the hospital school, is committed to the eclectic approach. Not for him the specialist art therapist or school of overt cognitive therapy. "All art provides children with the opportunity to see things from *different perspectives, and the changing of perception is* central to healing." In both the painting and music-making involved in this project, he has watched the growth of self-esteem and confidence as the uniqueness of the individual child is thrown into relief within group activity.

Sue Cowley, head teacher of the school, meanwhile observes the effect of the project on school work, and even the role it plays in the hospital's own ability to assess and refer children who need the most urgent and intensive help. "You'd think that there couldn't be a worse scenario than having to go to school *in* hospital — but far from wanting to eradicate the memory, even the most difficult children have come back to visit us when they've been passing by."

All this is flight-of-the-condor music to the ears of the ebullient Richard Gagols, education officer of the Ikon Gallery. He stands at the centre of *The Circle of the Ancestors*, a magic ring of chairs encrusted with beads, dried fruit, bones, madonnas, candles — a dark and jewelled emblem of Mexico and of the close and collective strength of women's lives in chicano culture. The exhibit is by Amalia Mesa-Bains, and is one which never fails to seduce the visiting children.

"To be able to take part in these experiences, then to have their own paintings hung not only in the wards, but on the walls of our gallery, convinces these children of their worth. They know they justify all the work we put in for them. The gallery becomes like a church in a secular age: a quiet space, full of wonder, where they can be absorbed, can concentrate and yes — be healed."

● *The Children's Hospital School is in Ladywood, Middleway, Birmingham (0121-454 4851). Distant Relations: A dialogue between chicano, Irish and Mexican artists runs until January 20 at the Ikon Gallery, John Bright Street, Birmingham (0121-643 0708). Caliche Music and Education can be contacted at Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham (0121-446 5440).*

Richard Rogers's plans for the South Bank raise more questions than answers, says **Marcus Binney**

Crystal palace turns opaque

Sir Richard Rogers's proposed "crystal palace" on the South Bank could be the most dazzlingly beautiful modern building in London. But as the project progresses (the proposals and business plan are being submitted to the Arts Council this week), more and more people are asking the same question: just what is it for?

This is not a new opera house or a major new art gallery, but a protective canopy thrown over two of London's most despised modern buildings: the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Hayward Gallery. You could even claim it is just a high-tech version of the Brent Cross Shopping Centre, full of retail stores, restaurants and corporate entertainment facilities which ought to be self-financing. Indeed, in Terry Farrell's earlier South Bank scheme, they were.

But Jo Kennedy, the project director, says the sum needed to complete all work by 2001, the 50th anniversary of the Festival Hall, is now £170 million. "This includes projected annual increases in building costs, which we believe will climb steadily in London because of the number of Millennium projects," she says.

At 1995 prices, the project splits into £84 million for the crystal palace and £35 million for the quite separate restoration of the Festival Hall, which is being carried out by architects Allies and Morrison and is already producing ravishing results inside. In the breakdown of the crystal palace costs, the glass envelope actually represents remarkably good value at £15 million, given its enormous size. "We have the foundations, the base levels and much of the internal structure," Rogers says.

Next comes work on the Queen Elizabeth Hall, costed at £8 million. The stage is to be adapted for dance and lyric theatre as well as music, with facilities for flying scenery, sidewings and an orchestra pit. The Hayward will be provided with a new self-contained exhibition gallery, meaning it no longer has to close between shows. Most significant of all will be a wholly new auditorium in front of the Festival Hall, with seating ranging from 300 to 580 as desired.

Who will pay? Arts Council lottery funding is likely to be required for a hefty 75 per cent of the cost. Rogers (who is also vice-chairman of the Arts Council) passionately believes that the funding should be nearer 100 per cent. "There are just too many lottery projects competing for the same matching funds," he argues. But Nicholas Snowman, the South Bank director, is gearing up for a fund-raising drive. A South Bank Foundation is being set up with the aim of securing business sponsorship.

The crystal palace has been billed as a new foyer for all the South Bank arts venues, teeming with attractive restaurants, cafés and shops. The management has produced a computer image "under the canopy", showing dinner in a high-level café overlooking the Thames. Women sit in shoulderless evening dresses and men in shirtsleeves. But for how much of the year will it be warm enough for this to happen?

Rogers simply states that the average temperature inside will be three degrees higher than Bordeaux, and adds: "The best analogy is with one of the great stations where you can comfortably sit out at a café all the year round." But how many of us would actually want to sit down to dinner on the concourse at Waterloo Station on a winter's evening?

Andy Sedgwick of engineers Ove Arup is doing the environmental studies. He says: "The predominant climate in Britain is, in mid-season, far from extreme." He also acknowledges that from October to May people take a coat with them when they go out in the evening. To me this is a critical distinction. Concertgoers and exhibition visitors want to leave their coats in the cloakroom and will circulate less freely in the crystal palace if they have to collect their coats before entering it in the interval.

> "It could well be dazzlingly beautiful, but what is it for?"

The key protection, say the architects, is from wind and rain. Cafés and restaurants on indoor terraces can be provided economically with underfloor or overhead heating, or the kind of gas burners one finds in French cafés, says Sedgwick. The likelihood is that they will soon all be building their own glass boxes under the glass canopy. This does not trouble Rogers. "The South Bank is awful now because it is so dank."

In summer a glass roof structure could obviously be as stifling as a greenhouse. The Rogers/Arup solution is to install the glazing used in the covered courtyards at the Louvre in Paris and the Kunsthalle in Hamburg, which has ingenious invisible shading built into the glazing sandwich. On the crystal palace roof the shading will be 75 to 80 per cent, quite enough, say the architects, when coupled with open windows and doors, to provide a cool breeze on the hottest day.

Here is another critical point. The beauty of the Waterloo trainshed, or any great 19th-century conservatory, lies substantially in the use of a single skin of clear glass. Nothing provides so much exhilaration as the sight of an intense blue sky all above you. The more filters and shades are introduced, the more that magic of an all-over glass roof can be diminished.

Rogers also sees the brutalist exteriors transformed by cascading and climbing plants. For the shops, Rogers wants to see "a range of crafts, including the best musical instrument-makers". This surely means low rents, in contrast to the South Bank's aim of increasing revenue (Kennedy expects that "when the crystal palace is fully operational, rents will increase our revenues by 20 per cent"). Rogers also talks of "shops selling CDs, tapes, videos — the future is in electronic gadgetry".

But wait a minute. This sounds just like a Virgin megastore. Should we not be offering the whole site to Richard Branson on a 99-year peppercorn lease and asking him to finance it?

Whatever criticisms may be made, Rogers has two aces to play. First he has a proven ability as a crowd-puller. The Pompidou Centre continues to attract seven million visitors a year — more than the British Museum. Rogers intends the crystal palace as a new focus for the youth of London, open from 9am to midnight, where thousands can congregate in the festival atmosphere of a non-stop party.

His second ace, and potential trump card, is that the crystal palace could be the most beautiful building of the millennium, adventurous in shape and structure, elegant in line, and breathtaking in internal expanse. Night lighting will make it a beacon across the Thames.

Rogers is taking full advantage of the new great age of structural engineering in which we live. Ove Arup, his engineering partners, are among the two or three top practices in the world, and with each refinement the roof of the crystal palace becomes more sensational and daring. The original wave has become a saddle, nowhere quite symmetrical so that the silhouette will constantly change. The new double curvature will provide extra bracing.

In the Arts Council lottery fund, Rogers has potentially the most compliant backer an architect could wish for. With it comes the opportunity to produce a masterpiece. But he needs a more exact brief than has so far been provided.



A computer-generated image of the glass-covered café and gallery Richard Rogers envisages for the South Bank. But will it be warm enough?

All about Ives

THE TIMES THE THEATRE CLUB

DURING his lifetime, the music of Charles Ives (1874-1954) was rarely performed, but now he ranks as one of the great American composers. Join the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican in Silk Street, London EC2 on January 19 to find out why as the orchestra, under Andrew Davis, performs Ives's *The Unanswered Question*, the *Robert Browning Overture* and the *Holidays* Symphony. The event marks the beginning of a special Ives festival, comprising seven concerts, two films, talks and an exhibition. Club members can buy two tickets for £20 for the first concert, and receive a copy of the Phaidon Press book *American Pioneers* (worth £14.99), which profiles Ives's life and work. To book, send a cheque, payable to the BBC Symphony Orchestra, together with details of your full name, address and Theatre Club membership number to: Lisa Owen-Jones, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Freepost LON 3048, London W9 2BR. To find out more about the festival, ring the BBC SO on 0171-765 2954

A HAPPIER NEW YEAR

CENTRE STAGE, the theatre restaurant in London's West End, is offering the chance to see the New Year in in style. For £69 per person, Theatre Club members can enjoy a four-course dinner with a bottle of wine each, a glass of champagne at midnight and cabaret provided by West End artistes. To book, telephone Centre Stage on 0800 335588. All reservations must be pre-paid and cancellations cannot be accepted after Dec 22

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK for any or all of this week's special offers, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

OTHER SHOWS

LONDON
Sadler's Wells
Dec 22, 23, 26, 27
● TICKETS £15 (normally £25) for London City Ballet's production of Prokofiev's *Cinderella* on Dec 22 (7.30pm), Dec 23 and Dec 27 (2.30pm, 7.30pm) and Dec 26 (2.30pm). Tel 0171-713 6000
Lyric Theatre
Dec 13, 14 & 19
● SAVE £5 on tickets (normally £12.50) to see comedian Harry Hill. Tel 0181 741-2311
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Creamy touch before the broth

CONCERT

COE/Blomstedt
Barbican



Herbert Blomstedt: showing his musicianship

Anne Sofie von Otter has been making excursions into increasingly varied repertory with mixed success, so Monday's opportunity to hear her return to the music with which she established her appeal was welcome. Accompanied by the Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Herbert Blomstedt, the Swedish mezzo-soprano sang three of Orpheus's arias from Gluck's opera, in versions by Berlioz and Saint-Saëns.

Von Otter was best in *Amour, viens rendre à mon âme*, in which she unleashed timbre of brilliance and found the character's fiery resolve. She was unfazed by virtuoso decorations and cadenza added by Pauline Viardot.

Earlier, she had difficulty evoking the character "cold" on the concert platform, and, although she brought her trademark creamy tone to *J'ai perdu mon Euridice*, this performance missed some of the character's anguish.

Her opening *Quel noveau ciel* lacked a wonderment to match the gentle orchestration. Blomstedt proved a sensitive accompanist, stressing even in these 19th-century editions Gluck's classicism.

The hastily offered encore, one of Alcina's arias from Haydn's *Orlando paladino*, took the mezzo back to her debut role, and she sang the sorceress's lines with wicked humour. Indeed, she had been scheduled to sing Haydn arias, but there were substitutions to the programme: Haydn's Symphony No 67 in F replaced his 100th, Brahms's Fourth Symphony was played in place of his Second, and Blomstedt conducted instead of Nikolaus Harnoncourt.

Blomstedt disclosed real musicianship in the Haydn, shaping the symphony with a spare, fluid beat that might have shown up weak ensemble in a lesser orchestra. These players, however, gave a spirited account on conventional instruments. Blomstedt's tempos were questionable only in the last movement, where frantic outer sections framed a slow Adagio whose *cantabile* marking was ignored.

The Brahms received a turgid performance in which every note was stressed, every phrase suffocated. Even the dance-like third movement was heavy, and although Blomstedt's holding back of the finale's passacaglia almost justified itself, in the opening movements he seemed to do little more than stir the Brahmsian broth.

JOHN ALLISON

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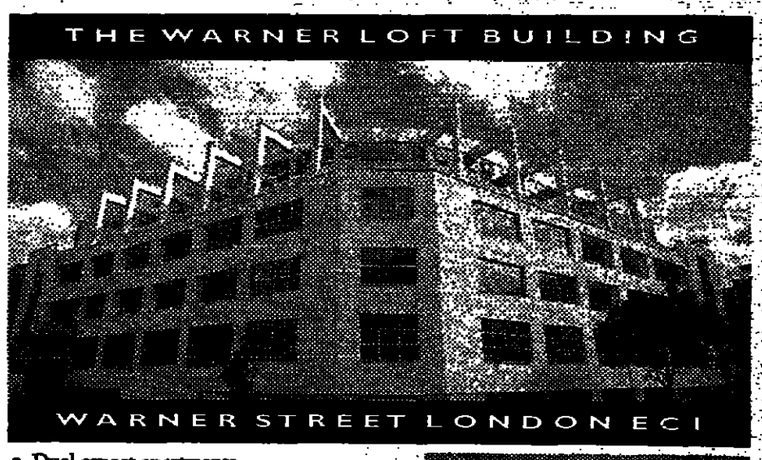
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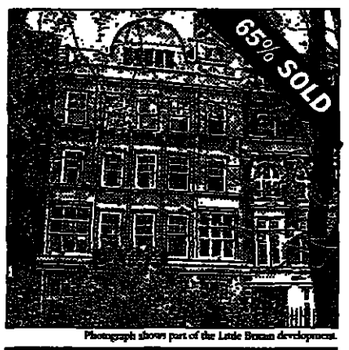
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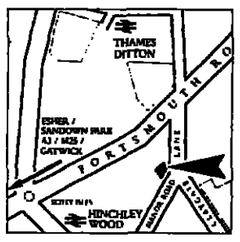


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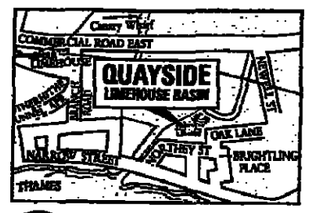
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Sellers put their faith in the hammer

Rachel Kelly finds benefits all round in property auctions

In the past, auctions were chiefly for spivs and property speculators looking for deals. Now, growing numbers of home-buyers are on the hunt for repossessions. One family's tragedy, it seems, can become another's bargain basement home or Christmas present.

Figures from the Lord Chancellor's Department show that repossessions are running at around 1,000 a week. While lenders initially aim to sell through estate agents, property which has failed or proved difficult to sell ends up at auction.

While overall trade is down and Chestertons has suspended its auction division until business picks up, the choice of repossessed property is still plentiful, a glance at an autioneer's catalogue shows. Such was the number of lots submitted in a sale this Monday by Allsop & Co, that it was spread over two days.

Agents say that while the Budget did nothing directly to help the market, additional money in some pockets through inheritance tax changes could tempt more private investors into the auction rooms. Low interest rates on capital on deposit are encouraging people to seek other forms of investment.

There are at least two sales before Christmas: 123 London and Home Counties properties will be sold at noon tomorrow, at the New Connaught Rooms, Kingsway, London, while a second Hambro Countrywide sale of 39 lots in East Anglia is at the Knights' Hill Hotel, King's Lynn, on Friday.

David Sanderman from *Faxwise*, which publishes a guide to property auctions in London, calculates that 9,000 lots have been sold this year.

Chris Glynn, senior auctioneer at Barnard Marcus, says many of these new buyers are "do-it-yourself developers" — private homeowners looking for their dream property to renovate. Robin Dean of GA Property says: "Over the past two or three years there have been more owner-occupiers buying through auctions." And small-time investors are also turning to auctions. "They buy a house, put a tenant in and it provides a better rate of return than a building society investment."

> Auctions are still the place to pick up quirkier properties

If the client has changed, then so has the type of property on offer. The past few years have seen, for the first time, modern family homes entering the market in significant numbers. "In the 1980s you'd never see a nice normal house at auction," says Mr Dean.

Some "normal" houses can be repossessions in disguise. Auctioneers have become sensitive to the stigma of selling repossessed property, aware that buyers may be squeamish about capitalising on the misery of others. Stickley & Kent no longer includes details of whether a house has been sold by order of the mortgagees when describing a property in its auction list. "The private seller doesn't want to put his or her house in a catalogue of repossessions, and we're achieving better prices as a result. Repossessions aren't going to last forever," says a spokesman. Clearly, would-be repossession buyers need to do their homework.

Are there really bargains on offer? Auctioneers say that most auctioned houses sell for about 90 per cent of the open market price. This can represent a significant saving, particularly on more expensive properties.

But be warned. There may be financial complications in living in a repossessed property. For example, an initial credit-card application is likely to be refused because of the credit history at that address. Lenders often sell properties with structural or legal problems through auctions as a last resort. You may end up spending on professional advice what you saved on the purchase price.

But auctions are still the best place to pick up quirkier properties that perhaps are difficult to value conventionally. For example, in its September catalogue Barnard Marcus offered an old church hall and a former telephone exchange, both with residential planning permission, although both failed to reach their reserves of £80,000 and £10,750 respectively.

Auctions can also be a good source of farmhouses, especially those based in the shires, and not all are derelict ruins. Strutt & Parker recently auctioned Blake's Farmhouse, a Grade II listed building and dairy on 3½ acres of land in Somerset, for its guide price of just £170,000.

For sellers the auction method offers a great deal of security: he is guaranteed a definite result within a short period of time, with no possibility of the purchaser withdrawing.

Selling is also relatively cheap. The fee to place a property in a catalogue is usually about £200 plus VAT, while the auction house will spend on average between £20,000 and £30,000 advertising each sale.

Catalogues are usually distributed four weeks in advance to anyone interested in buying. Check local papers for details of local sales. Contact *Faxwise* for a list of London auctions (0171-720 5000).

Lenders such as the Halifax, Nationwide and the Council of Mortgage Lenders do not distribute lists of repossessed properties. They sell through agents and auction houses.

Once you've decided to buy, visit the property to check that it is as you expected and in a condition which you are happy with. Then attend some other auctions to familiarise yourself with the bidding procedure.

Have a solicitor check the property's history and title deeds, and ensure that a survey and valuation are carried out.

Check for planning applications that affect your chosen property, and arrange your finances: the 10 per cent deposit is payable on the day in cash, banker's draft, building society or solicitor's client cheque and proof of identity is required. The balance is due 28 days later.

Check the catalogue to ensure your property is still available as it may have been sold privately. Before bidding starts, decide on a maximum bid and keep to it.

Finally, know your lot number — obvious but vital. When the hammer falls, a binding contract has been established.

● *GA Property (0622 691133); Stickley and Kent (0171-284 0181); Barnard Marcus (0181-741 8088).*









In Hambro Countrywide's auctions this week (clockwise from top left): a flat in NW6 (guide £40,000), a house in Boston, Lincs (£20,000), a semi in Dereham, Norfolk (£20,000), and a flat-conversion in Surrey (£40,000)

BIDDING FOR BEGINNERS

A PROBLEM for potential buyers at auctions is that the property they may have travelled many miles to buy has already been sold. The annoyance that this situation causes has led to new guidelines for auctioneers in England and Wales, issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers.

Their advice is to register your interest in a property prior to the auction. Then, in theory, the auctioneer will contact you if a pre-auction sale is likely.

The new guidelines arose after a recent auction in central London for a portfolio of commercial property, where an auctioneer declared a lot had been sold prior to auction.

One of the potential buyers, Oxford estate agent Paul Charles, had rung the auctioneer the afternoon before to be told all the property was still available. He complained, writing to his professional magazine to air his anger and suggesting the two professional bodies issue a code of practice to discourage sales before the auction.

Auctioneers estimate that about 10 per cent of lots are sold before auction. Most auctioneers try to avoid the problem by having a list of prospective buyers who have registered their interest, so that they can let them know.

Gary Murphy, senior residential property auctioneer for Allsop & Co in central London, says: "You have to bear in mind that the duty of the auctioneer is to his client. We always advertise that the property will be sold by auction unless previously sold or withdrawn."

The point on inconvenience was discussed by the RICS and ISVA auctioneering committees and in a letter to the same magazine the two chairmen issued the new guidelines.

The new guidelines say: "The very nature of auctions and the duty of the auctioneer to his vendor client dictates that this occurrence cannot be completely removed. However, we would advocate that auctioneers alert prospective purchasers to the possibility of a vendor selling at any time before the property is offered for sale in the room.

"When this occurs auctioneers should use their best and reasonable endeavours to notify all parties known to be interested."

JON MACGOWAN

Village-style development gets royal seal of approval

Christine Webb reports on a princely project in Somerset

The Prince of Wales has given his blessing to a second new village after his success with Poundbury in Dorset.

Planning permission was granted last week for Field Farm, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. The scheme is the culmination of seven years' planning by the Duchy of Cornwall and a local farmer, David Vagg, and it will eventually add 360 homes to the little town, boosting its 7,000 population by 15 per cent.

The Prince of Wales has taken his pioneering approach to housing a step further by asking a volume house-builder to redesign its standard homes to suit the area's character.

Bloor Homes of Swindon will use natural local materials for the homes in Shepton Mallet. The company builds 1,500 houses a year but this will be the first time it has altered its designs to suit a particular area.

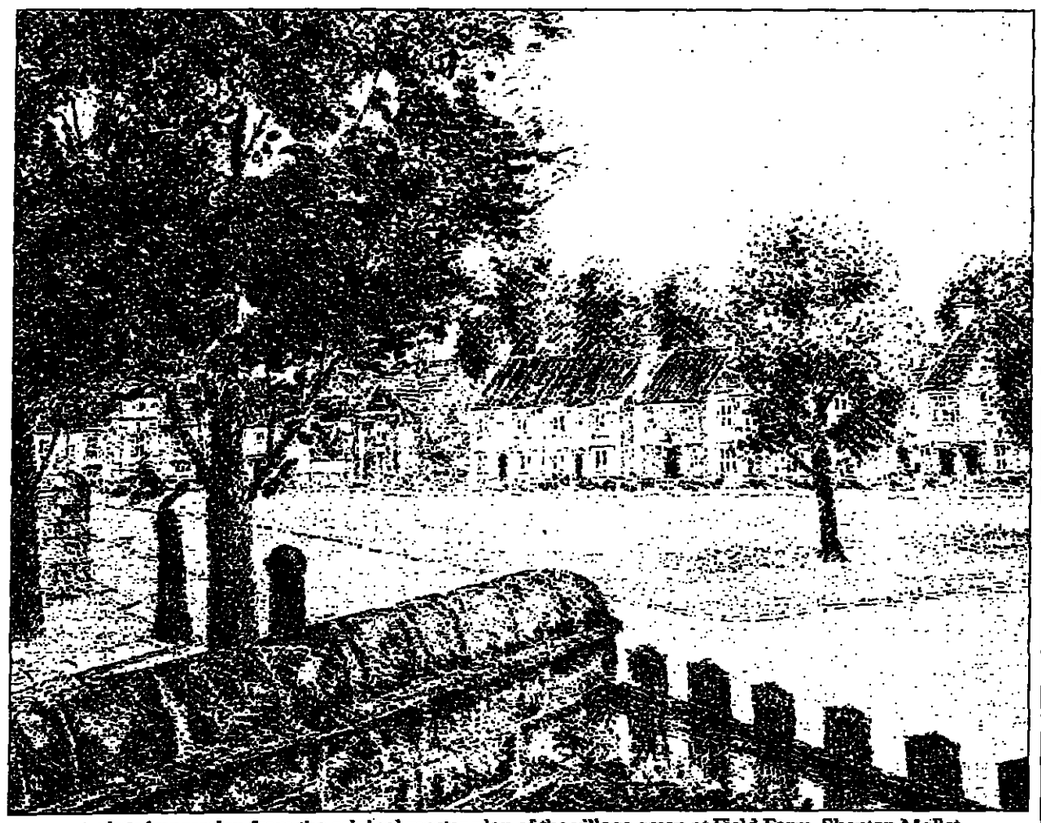
Building will start in April and prices will range from about £60,000 for a three-bedroom semi to around £135,000 for a four-bedroom detached house. The development will eventually be worth about £25 million and will include 60 low-cost homes and some terraced housing.

The Duchy's stake in the 43-acre site was just 2.9 acres, the rest belonging to Mr Vagg. But he went into partnership with the Duchy team, which lent its resources and experience.

"It was an entirely voluntary joint venture because I wanted something good here that fitted into the locality," says Mr Vagg. "The Duchy seemed to have the people with the expertise and know-how."

The Duchy's share of the profits will be 6.85 per cent.

Winchester architect Robert Adam drew up a master plan for the village, including a primary school, open spaces, toddler play areas, footpaths and a shop. The team wants the community to look as if it has evolved over many years, so a landscape survey of the site was carried out, and 60 mature trees will be preserved.



Artist's impression from the original master-plan of the village green at Field Farm, Shepton Mallet

Mr Adam wrote a design guide, based on Shepton Mallet's traditional architecture, which stipulates that slate, clay tiles, render and sandstone from the local Doulting Quarry will be used for the houses. Mr Vagg has even bought a redundant chapel at nearby Prestleigh and will move it stone by stone to its new site.

The landowners wrote aesthetics into the guidelines, wove them into covenants for when the land was conveyanced, and worked with Bloor before it even bought the ten acres on which it will build the 100 houses of the first phase.

Bloor adapted its standard house designs, simplifying elevations, which yielded savings that paid for other features such as real chimneys, and created three new designs. The company presented its plans to the Prince of Wales for approval.

"The planners wouldn't have been as stringent with their requirements as the Duchy was," says Melvyn King, managing director of the company's architects, Oldfield King of Southampton. "When we first worked on our scheme with the Duchy, there was a difference in both parties' aspirations. We were able to demonstrate that we could adapt to fulfil those aspirations. The Duchy is aiming the gun and we're just firing the bullets.

"There are seven basic house plans but each has at least four variations, and they've been designed for their location in the street scene," Mr King says. "A house in a prominent position will have prominent features. Some houses have real chimneys, some are gabled. There are also traditional houses which have Georgian-type windows, a doll's house look.

"Gardens will be enclosed rather than open plan, there are no integral garages visible at the front of properties and we don't let them dominate.

"Local vernacular originated from lack of transport. These days builders can easily move materials like bricks around the country. I can see why they say they'll build the same in Macclesfield as in Portsmouth. Using natural materials costs 15 to 20 per cent more," says Mr King.

"This development will be part of Shepton Mallet rather than a bolted-on estate, and I wish every developer gave freedom to achieve this. Many landowners are guided by profit motive, whereas the Prince of Wales has taken a more philosophical line and brought to bear his own views, which I think are highly commendable.

"I don't think the public are as perceptive. The windows at Field Farm are not the large suburban windows that people find desirable, for example. I'm not so sure the public appreciates the additional benefits and will pay the extra costs."

The Duchy is quick to praise the Vagg family for its desire to safeguard the quality of the development once the local authority had earmarked the land for housing in 1990. Mr Vagg admits the early planning will eventually cost him a great deal. "But we hope the quality of the design will reflect in the value we get for the land," he says. "Field Farm means a lot to me and I didn't want to take the money and run; it was worth investing time. The farm is my life. My grandfather was a tenant farmer here before my father bought it in 1948 and we've no intention of moving out.

"There will be satisfaction if we create nice homes for people, if the development looks nice, and if it is accepted by the local community. I don't like modern concrete estates, I like the older style of building. We were very much of a like mind with the Duchy.

"The first phase will set the tone for the rest of the development. If we get this right the rest will follow. That's why it's so important." If the new designs prove popular, Bloor may incorporate the three new house designs in its future standard house types. Regional manager John Lusty says: "We had to amalgamate the Duchy's guidelines with our blueprint as a general house builder. These houses will have kerb appeal — we'll see if they have saleability."

Let there be light

Nick Nuttall on chasing city criminals out of the shadows

High-quality street lighting can cut muggings, burglaries and car theft on crime-ridden streets and estates by nearly half, scientists have found. Researchers believe the first crucial step to making the nation's streets safer lies in erecting lights which allow pedestrians to recognise a face at 15 metres.

Better street lighting also cuts the fear of crime by increasing the social, sexual and age mix of people out at night time, making an area more cosmopolitan. The research has important implications for home owners whose house values have been hit by rising crime and for those who bought Georgian or Victorian properties in run-down parts of London and other cities during the late 1980s, where improvements to their areas have been hit by the recession.

The finding has come from studies carried out in the West Midlands and London by Kate Painter from the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University. Dr Painter says surveys of people living in crime-prone communities show that three key features of their areas make them fearful of crime and contribute to the success of criminals.

These are signs of disorder such as graffiti, boarded-up shops and groups of unruly youths; deserted streets that make pedestrians feel vulnerable; and a dark or dimly lit environment where threats cannot be seen or avoided.

To measure the importance of street lighting in the equation, Dr Painter carried out surveys and questionnaires before and after improvements. She found dramatic increases in the number of people out on the streets after dark once lighting had been improved. This helped to make everyone in the community, including women and the elderly, feel safer by making them believe that someone responsible would come to their aid if they were attacked.

"Good street lighting also seems to cut down on disorderly behaviour among youths," says Dr Painter, adding that crime does not appear to simply move elsewhere after lighting improvements. Upgrading the lighting on one estate she studied even appeared to cause a fall in crime on a neighbouring unlit estate. "Crime went down there by 3 per cent, so we got a diffusion of benefits," she says.

In Hammersmith and Fulham, West London, where better lighting was installed, the number of men on the street rose by 101 per cent and the number of women by 71 per cent, researchers found.

Yet despite such encouraging results, Dr Norman Davidson of Hull University believes that to date, the Government's provision of funding for crime prevention has been derisory. His research shows that in 1991-92, Britain spent £5.4 billion on the police and £1.6 billion on prisons, while only £16 million was spent on crime prevention.

"Crime prevention has been the Cinderella of the criminal justice system and it is surely time for a change," he says. "The haemorrhage of public funds into expensive justice for offenders who have already done the dirty deed needs to be stopped."

Dr Davidson says most police forces see crime prevention as a sideline, because officers' promotion prospects are geared to catching criminals rather than cutting down on crime.

"Community safety needs to be seen not just as a cheap sticking-plaster for some serious wounds, but a concerted effort by citizens, businesses and public agencies to provide an environment where crime is less likely," he says.

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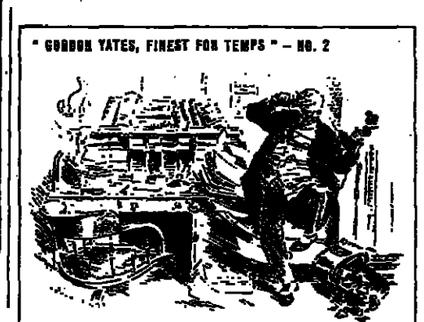
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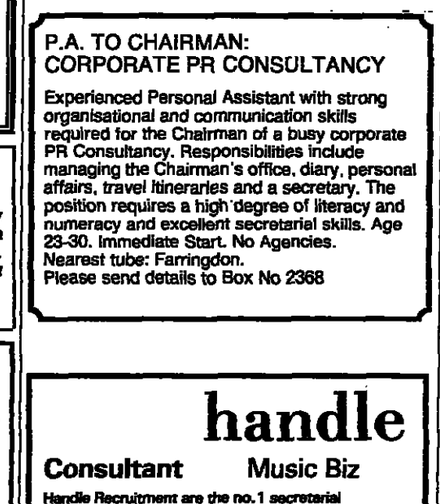
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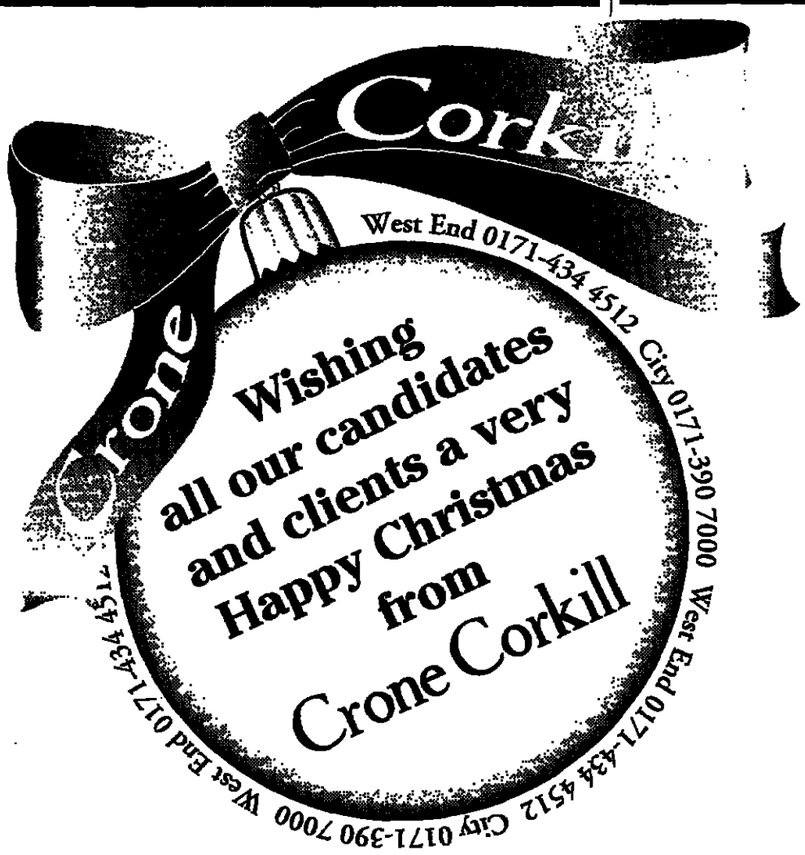
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McMillan harnesses split personality

Alan Lee talks to the South African rated the best all-rounder in Test match cricket

Brian McMillan is a confusing character. One day he is batting, deadpan, stolid, every inch the cool hand, and the next he is bowling with overt aggression that seems barely under control. He is like two different cricketers, two contrasting men. "Maybe I'm a bit schizo," he mused yesterday, "but I don't think either one is really me."

So what is one to make of this bear-like figure who, almost unnoticed, has become the most influential all-rounder in the world? For he is not what he seems. Beneath the veneer of unruly hair, untamed language and immense physical presence, there is a man of intelligence and geniality, a man to whom the England team offers increasing respect.

The thought of English batsmen being drawn to a giant whose bowling appears to revolve around pitching short and talking rough may seem far-fetched. Yet even Michael Atherton, who prefers never to mix with opponents during a match, smiles with wry appreciation when McMillan's name is mentioned.

"Fine cricketer," is Atherton's assessment. "He's the friendliest of their guys, always first into our room with a beer; but with the ball, he comes nearer to unsettling me than most because his verbals aren't really nasty, they make me want to laugh. Then I look up after he's given me this mouthful and he's winking at me. It has almost upset my concentration once or twice and I think he knows it."

He does, and he will trying again at Kingsmead, Durban, where the third Test begins tomorrow. "Atherton and I have some interesting battles," McMillan said. "That sort of thing motivates me, brings more out of my game. You have to follow your instincts and I do what I feel is best for me. So far, I've always kept it under control."

Is the macho thing an act, the charade of a pantomime villain?

"You can say that it's calculating," he said. It is easy to believe, too, for now he is reclining on his hotel bed, tolerantly supervising the ginger-haired toddler, Josh, who is his pride and joy. The gentle giant personified.

The end of South Africa's isolation came not a moment too soon for McMillan, who was already nearing his thirties. He has maximised his chances and, in 20 Tests to date, scored 1,137 runs at an average of 45 and taken 58 wickets at 28 apiece. His career, though, might never have reached such heights. Indeed, it might never have begun at all, for McMillan was born on the wrong side of the tracks.

He is the son of a miner, and at the small-town school that he attended in Carletonville, 50 miles west of Johannesburg, cricket was an afterthought. McMillan also played rugby, remarkably as a hooker — "I was a good bit smaller then" — and the unpolished arena of his upbringing left its legacy. "Life in a mining town never seemed rough to me, but there were no silver spoons around so maybe we grew up quicker and harder than those at the posh schools."

He climbed through the ranks of Transvaal club cricket and made his first-class debut at 21. Three years later, he almost gave up the game. Ironically, his career was saved by a trip to England and a spell in the Lancashire League. "I was ready to pack it all up and go into business but I went to play for Ramsbottom for a summer and Robin Jackman made me an offer to join Western Province. My first thought was that I had always wanted to live in Cape Town, so I gave it a go."

There have been no more misgivings. Although qualified as a science teacher, and employed by a computer company, his desire now is to make full use of his talents while he can. He will be 32 next week, but is considering a return to county cricket, ten years after his single season with Warwickshire.

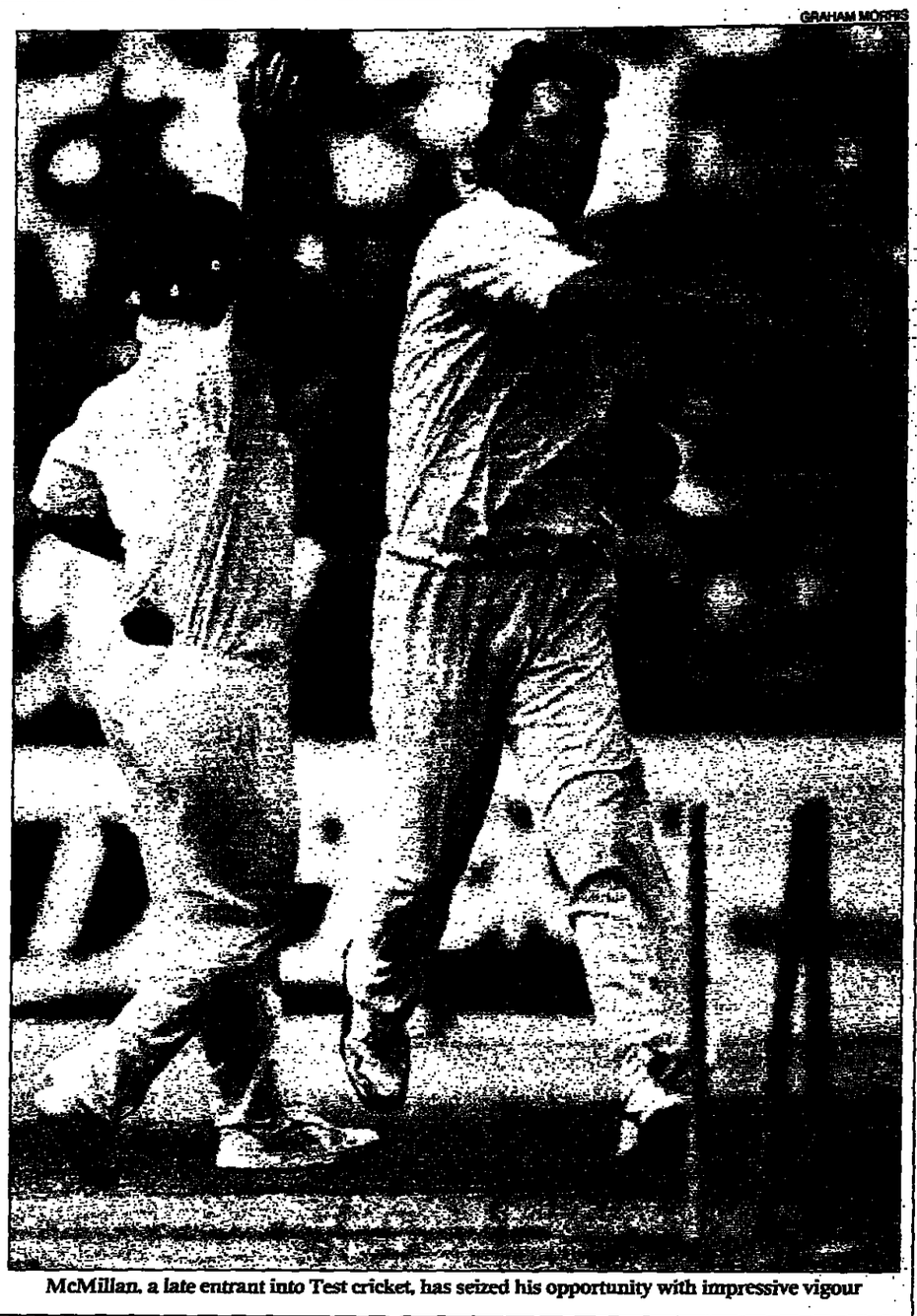
"If I'm going to do it, it's got to be the next two years," he said. "The routine doesn't put me off and I'm sure I could handle it so long as I am used as an all-rounder rather than a strike bowler." McMillan fancies playing in London, which is good news for Surrey, who have the vacancy and the resources. He will not come cheap, but then neither should he.

"Compare our rewards with those of the top rugby players," he said. "Rugby is 80 minutes of hard work, a Test match is five days of unrelenting pressure. A man earns his money at this level." Especially a man like McMillan, who is forever involved. When he is not batting or bowling, he is fielding either at slip or silly point.

He relishes the involvement, but acknowledges the stress on his 15-stone frame. It is said that he is always the first man on the physiotherapist's table, always complaining of aches and strains. Sometimes, it is hard to get him onto the field, but, once there, nobody could compete more wholeheartedly.

Does it flatter him to be thought the best in the world? "Who is to decide such a thing?" he asked. "Yet it is important to me to be one of the best, yes." How long can he go on, this impressive man of bewildering extremes and enigmatic humour? "My real goal now is our next tour of England, in 1998," he said. "It means a lot to me to be around for that." Oddly enough, he will find a welcome from plenty of grudging admirers if he is.

GRAHAM MORRIS



McMillan, a late entrant into Test cricket, has seized his opportunity with impressive vigour

England A thankful for Pooley's resistance to pressure

FROM PAT GIBSON IN PESHAWAR

ENGLAND A were not complaining about Pakistani pitches, umpiring or even ball-tampering last night. They had almost matched the levels of incompetence that they have been moaning about throughout the third and final five-day international as, in the space of two hours, they came close to undoing all the good work of the past seven weeks on tour.

They were saved from a chastening defeat, that would have given Pakistan A a share of the series, by an unbroken ninth-wicket stand of 49 between Jason Pooley and Dean Headley, two players not originally selected for the touring party but who batted with greater composure than some of their more senior colleagues.

John Emburey, the cricket manager, did not mince his words. "We did not apply ourselves to the situation as well as we should have done as professional cricketers," he said. "I have not said anything to the players yet, but I can assure you that if a county side had performed like that a few words would have been flying around the dressing-room.

"I just want to calm down a little, sit back and think about what I am going to say to them. I don't want to be ultra-critical because the important thing is that the boys did salvage a draw and hold on to the series, but two hours like that can cost you a Test match and a Test series."

The England players might have guessed that they were in for a roasting when they arrived on a gloriously sunny morning to find burning coals in tin pans being placed on the pitch to dry damp spots caused by heavy dew seeping through inadequate tarpaulin covers; and this on a ground where England are scheduled to play two of their World Cup matches.

When play did start, 100 minutes late, they got safely past lunch 30 runs behind but with eight second-innings wickets in hand. They then lost six for 62 in an afternoon of escalating panic. It did not seem to matter too much when Udal, the second night-watchman, pulled a catch to mid-wicket, but, when Gallian was leg-before after batting almost three hours for 58, the alarm bells were ringing.

Hussain, the captain, hit a frenzied 29 off 25 balls before going for a single that was hardly there and discovering that McGrath had not left his crease at the other end. Ostler played suicidally back to a ball that kept low. McGrath was given out caught behind as he tried to withdraw his bat and Piper was caught at the wicket attempting a cut.

It was just as well that Pooley is such a forthright character. His 38 runs were just as valuable as the 50 minutes Headley stayed with him before the umpires offered them the light 100 minutes before the scheduled close with England A 90 ahead.

"It was the one time we'd been under a little pressure; the one time the players had to show some character and technique, and everything we set out to achieve was almost lost," Emburey said. No doubt, Raymond Illingworth will be told.

PAKISTAN A: First Innings 300 (Asif 147 not out; E S H Giddins 6-104, D W Headley 5-109).

ENGLAND A: First Innings 199 (D P Ostler 68, N V Knight 55; Shahid Nazir 8-84).

Second Innings

N V Knight lbw b Shahid Nazir	15
J E R Gallian lbw b Salman	58
I D K Salisbury c Javed Sami b Akram	2
S D Udal c Javed b Shahid Nazir	2
*N Hussain run out	29
A McGrath c Wasim b Afhar	7
D P Ostler b Salman	5
J C Pooley not out	38
†K J Piper c Wasim b Salman	10
D W Headley not out	4
Extras (b9, lb12)	21
Total (8 wkts)	191

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-56, 2-61, 3-80, 4-97, 5-109, 6-126, 7-126, 8-142.

E S H Giddins did not bat.

BOWLING: Afhar 16-4-47-1; Shahid Nazir 22-6-55-2; Shadid Anwar 2-1-4-0; Akram 15.1-1-33-1; Salman 18-8-20-3; Asif 1-0-4-0; Babar 2-0-8-0; Shahid 1-0-1-0.

Umpires: Iftikher Malik and Feroz Butt.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 1995-96

CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK
(AMENDMENT OF PROVISIONS - DECEMBER 1995)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is intended that the Select Committee of the House of Commons which is considering the Bill under the above name or short title should consider certain amendments to the Bill the purposes of which are concisely summarised as follows:-

1. Two schemes (the "St. Pancras Approach: Promoters' Developed Scheme and Associated Works" and the "St. Pancras Approach: Modified Baxter Scheme and Associated Works") for the approach of the rail link to the proposed London terminus at St. Pancras as follows:-

(a) Works in the London boroughs of Camden and Islington provided for in each Scheme and being alternatives to those proposed in the Bill, comprising -

Works Nos.1AA, 1BB, 1CC and 1DD - Railways in substitution for parts of the railways (Works Nos1A to 1D) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill, providing revised alignments, both vertically and horizontally, for the international and domestic railways to and from St. Pancras Station between a point south of the Regent's Canal and a point east of the Caledonian Road, with railways then proceeding to Highbury Corner as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill;

Works Nos. 1EE, 1FF, 1GG, 1HH and 1JJ - Railways in substitution for the railways (Works Nos. 1E to 1J) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill, providing revised links or junctions between the international railway and the Midland Main Line and the North London Incline Railway, and Work No.1K which is a cross-over between the international railway and the Midland Main Line within the throat to St. Pancras Station;

Works Nos.2AA and 2BB - Railways in substitution for parts of the railways (Works Nos. 2A and 2B) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill, providing revised alignments for connections to the Midland City Line (Thameslink);

Work No. 3B - A railway in substitution for part of the railway (Work No. 3) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill, providing for a realigned diversion of the Midland Main Line; Work No.3C being a railway siding on the western side of Work No. 3B;Work No. 3D being a cross-over between the northbound and southbound rails of the Midland Main Line to the north of Camden Road Tunnel; and Work No.3E being a railway in substitution for the railway (Work No.3A) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill, for construction purposes only;

Work No.5D(3) - a new access road between York Way and a point in the King's Cross Railway Lands, together with Work No. 5D(4), a new road within the Railway Lands between Work No. 5D(3) and Wharf Road. An additional access road (Work No.5EE) is proposed, in substitution for the road (Work No. 5E) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill, between York Way and a point in the north-west corner of the Railway Lands;

Work No. 5LL - A diversion of the Camden Sewer being in substitution for the diversion (Work No 5L) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill.

(b) In addition to the above works, each Scheme contains the following further works:-

In the Promoters' Developed Scheme -

Works Nos. 5Q and 5Q(1) are new roads comprising diversions of York Way and Randell's Road;

In the Modified Baxter Scheme -

Work No. 2F - A railway being a realignment of the Midland City Line (Thameslink) to a point north of Kentish Town Station; Work No.1GG referred to above would also extend to that point;

Work No.5Q - A diversion of the Middle Level Sewer No.2;

Work No. 24 - A railway providing a chord line between the Midland Main Line and the North London Line west of Belsize Tunnel at West Hampstead.

2. Provision of the following:-

(a) Construction of works in the London boroughs of Camden and Islington to provide for altered or additional subways (Works Nos.4AA and 4MM) at King's Cross/St. Pancras Underground Station together with a diversion of the St. Pancras Sewer (Work No.5R) between that sewer and the Fleet Sewer;

(b) Construction of works in the borough of Ashford, county of Kent, comprising -

Works Nos.16T and 16U - Railways in the town of Ashford, comprising sidings from the Ashford to Canterbury Railway into the Ashford Goods Yard east of the East Stour River and a connection between the railways (Works Nos. 16E and 16A) as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill;

Works Nos.16QQ, 16RR and 16RR(1) - Roads in the town of Ashford and parish of Sevington being a diversion of Boys Hall Road and Canterbury Road (in substitution for Work No.16Q as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill), a realignment of Crowbridge Road and new road into the northern corner of Orbital Park (in substitution for Work No 16R as described in Schedule 1 to the Bill) and a new road between Work No. 16RR and Canterbury Road;

(c) Provision in the London boroughs of Hackney and Newham of land for spoil handling facilities on lands in and adjacent to the River Lee Navigation and Waterworks River, Stratford;

(d) Provision in the borough of Gravesham, county of Kent, of land for a footbridge to facilitate access between Northfleet Station and the proposed station at Ebbsfleet;

(e) Provision in the borough of Ashford, town of Ashford, county of Kent, of land for a construction site on land at Carlton Road (Rimmels);

(f) Provision for alteration to the southerly limit of deviation for railway works, shown on the plans for the Barking Extended Tunnel, in the vicinity of Choats Manor Way, Barking.

3. Provision to carry out subsidiary works; to lay out or improve means of access in locations shown on the deposited plans; and temporary interference with the River Lee Navigation, Waterworks River and Prescott Channel in connection with the works at Stratford described in Schedule 1 to the Bill.

4. Interference with highways including stopping up or diversion of specified parts of roads and footpaths on realignment or diversion of such highways specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 above and parts of other footpaths in the areas mentioned in those paragraphs as shown on the deposited plans.

5. Compulsory acquisition of land within limits of deviation (or the Works or within limits of land to be acquired or used shown on the deposited plans in the areas referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above; further powers for the acquisition of land so shown for specified purposes; temporary possession and use of certain land so shown for other specified purposes; and the provision of land within the King's Cross Railway Lands for the replacement of concrete batching facilities. The land which may be acquired or used includes part of St. Pancras Gardens (area 200 sq m), Camley Street Natural Park (area 579 sq m) and the recreation area at Agar Grove (area 5,719 sq m) all in the London borough of Camden, part of Arena Field (area 3,725 sq m) in the London borough of Hackney and part of Ebbsfleet Pleasure Ground (area 1,913 sq m) in the town of Gravesend, borough of Gravesham.

6. Alterations and additions to the provision which is now made in the Bill regarding parking at St. Pancras and Ebbsfleet, the demolition of structures in conservation areas in the London borough of Camden, statutory consultation with the National Rivers Authority, control over the relocation of electricity pylons and the diversion of overhead electricity lines, the acquisition by statutory undertakers of rights relating to relocated apparatus and control over construction arrangements.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Plans and Sections, with Books of Reference to those Plans relating to the areas affected by the proposed Amendments have been deposited for public inspection at the offices referred to in Part 1 of the scheduled list below.

Relevant Supplements to the Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summaries of those Supplements have also been deposited for public inspection and for sale at reasonable prices at each of the offices mentioned in Part 1 of the scheduled list marked thus* and at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agent.

Copies of the Bill and of the proposed Amendments are available for inspection and copies of the proposed Amendments are available for sale at a reasonable price at each of those offices mentioned in Part 1 of the scheduled list marked thus* and at the offices of the undermentioned Parliamentary Agent. Copies of the Bill are also on sale at Her Majesty's Stationary Office at 49 High Holborn, London WC1V 6HR.

Copies of the Bill, and of the proposed Amendments and the relevant Plans and Sections, Books of Reference, Environmental Statement Supplements and Non-Technical Summaries are also available for public inspection at the libraries referred to in Part II of the scheduled list.

Amended plans showing the altered southerly limit of deviation for railway works for the Barking Extended Tunnel have been deposited for public inspection with the Chief Executive, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Civic Centre, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 7DR and at his office at The Town Hall, Barking, Essex IG11 7LU. Copies of the proposed Amendments are available for public inspecton and sale at these offices. The amended plans and proposed Amendments are also available for public inspection at the Central Library, Axe Street, Barking, Essex IG11 7NB.

The Bill has been introduced in the House of Commons as a public Bill. In the House of Commons the effect of an Order made by that House is that Petitions in opposition to the proposed Amendments must be presented by being deposited in the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons not later than 10th January 1996.

In the House of Lords, objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, and the latest date for depositing such a Petition against the Bill may be the subject of an Order made by that House, or if no Order is made, will be the tenth day after that on which the Bill receives its First reading in that House. In the latter case, if this date is a Sunday, Christmas Day or a Bank Holiday, or a day on which the House does not sit, the final date for depositing may be postponed.

Information about the deposit of such Petitions may be obtained from either the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments in the House of Lords, or from the undermentioned Parliamentary Agent.

Dated 6th December 1995

M. P. THOMAS,
Department of Transport,
Great Minster House,
76 Marsham Street,
London SW1P 4DR.

Legal Adviser.

ALISON M.H. GORLOV,
35 Great Peter Street,
Westminster,
London SW1P 3LR.

Parliamentary Agent.

SCHEDULED LIST

PART I

For works and lands in the London Boroughs of Camden and Islington, with the -

*Chief Executive, London Borough of Camden, Town Hall, Judd Street, London WC1H 9JE;
*Chief Executive, London Borough of Islington, 222 Upper Street, London N1 1YA.

For works and lands at Ashford, with the:-

*Joint Secretary, Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ;
* Borough Secretary and Solicitor, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL;
Clerk to the Mersham and Sevington Parish Council, 8 Long Row, Flood Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent TN25 7HD.

For lands for spoil handling facilities at Stratford, with the-

*Chief Executive, London Borough of Hackney, 161 City Road, London EC1V 1NR;
* Director of Corporate Services, London Borough of Newham, Town Hall, East Ham, London E6 2RP.

For lands for a footbridge at Northfleet Station, with the -

*Joint Secretary, Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ;
* Legal Services Manager, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU.

PART II

For works and lands in the London Boroughs of Camden and Islington, with the -

Chief Librarian, St. Pancras Library, Town Hall Extension, Argyle Street, London WC1H 8EQ;
Head Librarian, Swiss Cottage Library, 88 Avenue Road, London NW3 3HA;
Chief Librarian, Central Library (Islington), 2 Fieldway Crescent, London N5 1PF.

For works and lands at Ashford, with the -

Head Librarian, Ashford Library, Church Road, Ashford, Kent TN23 1QX;
Centre for Kentish Studies, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ;
Local Government Information Services, Kent Arts & Libraries HQ, Springfield, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2LH.

For lands for spoil handling facilities at Stratford, with the -

Head Librarian, Central Library (Hackney), Mare Street, London E8 1HG;
Head Librarian, Stratford Reference Library, Water Lane, Stratford, London E15 4NJ.

For lands for a footbridge at Northfleet Station, with the -

Head Librarian, Gravesend Central Library, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1BE.

TCCB set to act in national interest

BY SIMON WILDE

IT HAD been hoped that great changes to the way that cricket is played in Great Britain would be endorsed at Lord's this week. A single body would supervise the game at all levels, to the particular benefit of the England team, which would have beneath it a refined feeder system, and the game's coffers, which — with a national plan in place — would be swollen by funds from the Sports Council and the National Lottery.

Because of the sheer scale of the task, and the anxiety of all parties to get the thing right, the English Cricket Board will not now be operating for several months at least. Nevertheless, it is expected that several decisions will be made at the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) winter meeting in the next two days that will strengthen the hand of the national team.

Two of the biggest bugbears of the county cricketer's existence are the number of overs that the administrators force them to cram into each day of championship cricket and the demanding intrusion of an AXA Equity & Law League match between the third and fourth days of a Britannic Assurance county championship fixture.

The former may survive, but the latter will surely not. Already, counties are availing themselves of the opportunity that the regulations permit — to start a championship match at a "festival" venue on a Wednesday rather than a Thursday and to complete it before the players switch their attentions to the demands of the limited-overs game.

Others may point to the inevitability of early finishes and the financial hardships that blank Saturdays would create, but experience is rapidly exposing the weakness of this argument. When the first three days of a championship fixture are on weekdays, there is valuable advertising and corporate entertainment to be sold.

What would most please Michael Atherton and Raymond Illingworth would be the county clubs acknowledging that their interests lie second to those of the national team, giving the England captain and manager control of the country's leading players.

Illingworth would dearly like to have the powers available, say, to his South African counterpart, who can — and recently did — order some of his Test players to rest from provincial matches to preserve them from exhaustion or injury. At present, Illingworth is powerless to stop a county or a player defying his wishes.

Another step that would please Illingworth — and many county professionals — is the introduction of legislation ending the ambiguity surrounding the qualification rules that has been exposed by the Andrew Symonds case.



Illingworth: powerless

Inevitably, with the debate about a new governing body fresh in their minds, county executives will want to scrutinise the whole structure of the county system, from the duration of limited-overs matches to points-scoring in championship fixtures.

After three years, four-day championship cricket is now so widely accepted that the long-arranged review, recently conducted by the TCCB's cricket committee under David Acfield and the conclusions of which are to be put before delegates this week, was able to focus on refining the product rather than deciding whether it should be continued with.

West Indies routed by youth side

A YEAR ago, English cricket was cringing with embarrassment after the national side lost to the tiros of the Australian Cricket Academy (Marcus Williams writes). Defeats in successive one-day matches by five wickets and then by six were heavy blows to national pride.

Maybe the critics were too harsh, for yesterday the Academy team, all aged under 21, shot out the West Indies touring side for 92 in 33.5 overs and cruised to victory by eight wickets. Richie Richardson, the West Indies' captain and not a man given to hyperbole, had one word for his side: "pathetic".

Conditions in the seaside town of Wollongong were cold and windy; a far cry from the Caribbean but no excuse for the rout. "I can't recall seeing us bat worse than that," Richardson said. At least he could partially exonerate himself: he was top scorer with 30. Roland Holder, the man who replaced the disgruntled Brian Lara in the touring party, made 22.

The Academy side contained six players who had already played first-class cricket and the strongest impression was made by the pair of left-arm opening bowlers.

Mark Harrity, who cannot get into South Australia's one-day team, took the wickets of Phil Simmons, Jimmy Adams and Shivnarine Chanderpaul, and Brett Swain removed Stuart Williams, as the West Indians slid to 20 for four.

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Chairman of BHB's industry committee under pressure to resign

Future of McCloy put under scrutiny

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

THE future of Matthew McCloy within the British Horseracing Board (BHB) was thrown into doubt last night after a leading racing figure questioned his fitness to represent the sport because of his much publicised arrest in the United States.

Peter Walwyn, chairman of the Lambourn Trainers Association, said: "A lot of people have felt worried by this and there has been no suitable explanation or apology.

"Although he has done very well chairing the BHB's industry committee, is his conduct really suitable? Is he really fit to be industry chairman? A lot of us feel the same way and are worried he is going to get a permanent place on the BHB as Michael Darnell's replacement.

"There are big queries about him. After all, one cannot say it is an isolated incident of strange behaviour," Walwyn added.

McCloy, 48, was handcuffed by the captain of an American Airlines flight to New York after he had been drinking. The Newbury-based lawyer, who was travelling to the Breeders' Cup at Belmont Park, subsequently spent two nights in cells and pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. Two charges of assault and resisting arrest were dropped.

After his release, McCloy claimed his arrest had been due to a mix up by immigration officials who thought he was a West Indian "yardie".

Walwyn's remarks, which reflect the views of many within racing, came only 24 hours after McCloy's behaviour was the subject of informal discussion by Jockey Club members after a full meeting at Portman Square. It had been thought his conduct would be raised formally — with queries as to whether he had brought racing into disrepute. However, in the end "nobody wanted to be seen to be publicly putting the knife in," one Jockey Club insider said yesterday.

After a hotly contested election earlier this year, McCloy was elected as chairman of the BHB's industry committee, whose membership includes trainers and breeders. He was co-opted to the full BHB board and had been favourite to succeed Michael Darnell when he steps down in June as one of the committee's three directors on the board.

Significantly, the BHB's annual industry forum is being staged tomorrow and Walwyn's intervention will increase the pressure on McCloy to consider his future.

"I discuss racing politics with a lot of people and they felt someone had to say this before the industry committee forum on Thursday. It needed saying. Maybe there is a very good explanation for everything that happened — we have all made fools of ourselves from time to time — but this is a responsible job and one has got to be seen to be fairly responsible," Walwyn said.

"All we are thinking about is the good of the industry and to make sure it is properly represented. It is up to his conscience. When he gets quizzed by the industry committee, as he will do now, he must make a decision. One wants to get the whole thing cleared up. It has been rather glossed over."

McCloy faces a tough choice. Although he has, until now at least, retained the confidence of a majority of industry committee members, he will be fully aware of the whispering campaign against him and the scarcely concealed opposition of breeders and trainers.

His critics acknowledge that he has been an excellent chairman of the industry committee but insist he should have at least offered to resign after the unfortunate saga in the United States. In all probability, they say, his resignation would have been refused and that would have been the end of the matter. Now he may have to offer his resignation — and have it accepted.



MALCOLM CLARKE

Matthew McCloy, supported by his wife, Pru, in New York in October, faces an uncertain future with the BHB

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: ROMANY CREEK (2.15 Exeter)
Next best: Clifton Set (1.30 Bangor)

Jones explains lasting appeal of the Turf

BY RICHARD EVANS

WHY does racing, and betting on horses, continue to be so popular? Many have asked but few have provided such a wonderful answer as that presented to the Gimcrack Dinner in York last night by Tom Jones, the Newmarket trainer.

In a gem of a speech, overflowing with wit and wisdom, Jones said: "I believe the answer lies in the variety and colour of the sport and of the characters involved in it. The monotony of the roulette table can't hold a candle to the rich variety of our racecourses. We have everything on offer from the wall of death at Wolverhampton to the Ebor course on the Knavesmire and from the gentle undulations of Hexham and Epsom to the galloping billiard tables of Newbury and Yarmouth.

"We race on the flat over distances from five furlongs to 2¾ miles, and over obstacles from two miles to 4½ miles and now we even have flat races for steeplechasers. So it is not surprising that we produced equine heroes so different in character as Lochsong and Desert Orchid to Lammtarra and Further Flight — and, somewhere in the middle, the handicapper's nightmare, dear old Vindaloo."

Jones, who took out a trainers' licence in 1951, continued: "Look at our jockeys. Their individual efforts still defy the efforts of the [Jockey Club] disciplinary committee to turn out a bunch of autopilots running on rails — each with six shots a piece in his locker.

"On the word 'dismount' we have everything from springheeled Jack [Frankie] Dettori to a sight I saw in Yarmouth a year or two ago — two veteran jockeys after a long and hard fought battle over a mile and three quarters, each collapsing in the unsaddling enclosure under a mound of lead and leather, and having to be assisted into the weighing room.

"Trainers vary from the boozily ebullient to the deadpan clerical who, after winning a good race, stand in the unsaddling enclosure looking as though there has been a death in the family. And now, we even have the absolute knockout lady practitioners — and when I say knockout, they come in both meanings of the word, as one or two jockeys could tell you.

"Our owners ... well wage slaves like myself have to be particularly careful on this subject. If we know nothing else, at least we know on which side our bread is buttered. Old Ernie Davey once gave it as his opinion that it was 'the bloody owners that wrecked racing' — and he ended up training for no one but himself."

He added: "I can't leave the subject of owners without mention of Sheikh Hamdan [Al-Maktoum] — the only man between me and the gutter. Late this year, a journalist announced that I was retiring at the end of the season. I hastened to assure Sheikh Hamdan that this was not so. 'I know it's not,' he said. 'Because you will only retire when I tell you to.'

"The veteran American trainer, Jim Ryan, once told me no man ever committed suicide or even thought of retiring when he had a decent two-year-old in his barn. And now I'm engaged in trying to remember and pronounce the name of Sheikh Hamdan's 1996 juveniles."

Aside from the good-humoured banter, Jones chided those who suggest racing should divorce itself from hunting. "Let us make no mistake, the threat from well-intentioned but ignorant people is not just to hunting but to all forms of sport involving animals, as the burning of fences at Liverpool, and attacks on fishermen and shooting people demonstrate.

"If you are connected with any of these sports, it is no good burying your head in the sand and pretending it has no connection with the others. Don't knock the other sports. Support them, or yours may be next on the list."

Maguire back

ADRIAN MAGUIRE, who has been out of action since falling from Hatcham Boy at Ascot on November 17, hopes to return to the saddle at the same track on Saturday.

His governor, David Nicholson, has entries in three races, including Putty Road in the Long Walk Hurdle.

BANGOR SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Broad, 5 winners from 12 runners, 41.7%; C Brooks, 6 from 15, 40.0%; M Hammond, 7 from 18, 38.9%; K Bailey, 7 from 23, 30.4%; D Nicholson, 9 from 30, 30.0%; C Mann, 3 from 11, 27.3%. JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody, 26 winners from 83 rides, 31.3%, G Bradley, 6 from 28, 21.4%; W Marston, 7 from 34, 20.6%; C Llewellyn, 8 from 39, 20.5%; R Guest, 5 from 26, 19.2%; A Roche, 3 from 17, 17.6%.

BANGOR

THUNDERER

12.30 Hong Kong Designer. 1.00 Waterford Castle. 1.30 Pharanear. 2.00 Hebridean. 2.30 FRONTIER FLIGHT (nap). 3.00 Keano. 3.30 The Stitcher.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 STEADFAST ELITE.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

12.30 TOTE PLACEPOT NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£2,152: 2m 1f) (18 runners)

1 D- BALLYRAG 15 R Fahey 4-11-5 ..... L Wyer 82
2 D BERTS CHOICE 18 K Bridgwater 4-11-5 ..... S Jaymes (7) –
3 D BICKERTON POACHER 74 D McCain 5-11-5 ..... D McCain –
4 JAMAICA BRIDGE 46F S Norton 5-11-5 ..... O Pears –
5 0-P0 MOMENT OF JUSTICE 34 (B) L Lungo 4-11-5 ..... T Reed 83
6 00 BOBBIE'S GIRL 18 J O'Shea 5-11-0 ..... D Byrne –
7 U02 REAL POPCORN 69 (BF) W Jenks 4-11-0 ..... T Jenks 91
8 0-00 RUGRAT 19 B Preece 5-11-0 ..... Gary Lyons –
9 8 GOOD SO FA 6 C Allen 3-10-5 ..... G Lee (3) –
10 GRANDQUE 198 W G M Turner 3-10-5 ..... A Thornton –
11 HAMILTON SILK 74F M Meagher 3-10-5 ..... B Harding (3) –
12 5P HONG KONG DESIGNER 31 A James 3-10-5 ..... W Marston 89
13 NORTHERN TROVE 37F R Thompson 3-10-5 ..... W Fry –
14 00 ROSCOMMON LAD 5 (B) R Hollinshead 3-10-5 M W Martin (7) –
15 0 KATY KOO 20 P Bevan 3-10-0 ..... T Eley –
16 LADY LANCER 230F C Allen 3-10-0 ..... J McLaughlin –
17 P RACHEL ANN 20 J Bradley 3-10-0 ..... R Johnson (3) –
18 P SHARP HOLLY 20 J Bensse 3-10-0 ..... C Llewellyn –

5-2 Grannque, 4-1 Real Popcorn, 6-1 Ballyrag, 8-1 Jamaica Bridge, 10-1 Hong Kong Designer, 12-1 Hamilton Silk, 14-1 others.

1.00 WYNNSTAY HUNT SUPPORTERS CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (£3,794: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1 3-22 CHANGE THE ACT 27 (D,F,B,S) Miss V Williams, 10-12-0 R Davis (5)
2 42-1 VILLAGE REINDEER 18 (D,F,G,S) P Calver 8-11-11 ..... L Wyer 90
3 322U PRECIPICE RUN 7 (D,BF,G,S) G Richards 10-11-8 R Dunwoody 97
4 /U- TWO STEP RHYTHM 251 (D,6) J McConnochie 11-11-7 ..... S McNeill –
5 22-4 MAN OF THE GRANGE 27 (C,D,F,S) W Clay 9-11-5 ..... R Farrant 92
6 0\14- FAST CRUISE 293 (CD,6,S) E Owen 10-10-10 ..... R Guest 98
7 315- DISTINCTIVE 245 (S) M Wilkinson 6-10-8 ..... C Llewellyn 97
8 /F2 WATERFORD CASTLE 16 (B,BF,G,S) K Bailey 8-10-4 A Thornton 95
9 P4P- OPAL'S TENSPOT 299 (F,G,S) J Bradley 8-10-2 R Johnson (3) 90

5-2 Precipice Run, 7-2 Change The Act, 4-1 Village Reindeer, 7-1 Fast Cruise, 8-1 Waterford Castle, 10-1 Two Step Rhythm, Distinctive, 12-1 others.

1.30 ASTBURY WREN HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,852: 3m) (8)

1 4-PP LOCH SCAVAIG 21 (V,F,G,S) D Moffatt 5-11-10 .. D J Moffatt 97
2 1433 CLIFTON SET 29 (B,F,S) C Mann 4-11-3 ..... R Dunwoody 91
3 4131 PHARANEAR 21 (F,G,S) D Nicholson 5-10-10 ..... W Marston 90
4 4821 KARAR 21 (D,F,G,S) R Rowe 5-10-5 ..... D O'Sullivan 88
5 -065 DISSINGTON DENE 4 (F,S) J Norton 8-10-5 ..... W Fry 87
6 /6P- LINKSIDE 371 (D,G,S) M Meagher 10-10-0 ..... L Wyer 90
7 -0P0 HAPPY HORSE 6 (B,D,F,G,S) R Hodges 8-10-0 ..... D Dascombe (5) –
8 3-03 KADARI 7 (B,S) W Clay 6-10-0 ..... R Johnson (3) 72

5-2 Karar, 3-1 Pharanear, 7-2 Loch Scavaig, 4-1 Clifton Set, 5-1 Dissington Dene, 20-1 Linkside, 25-1 others.

2.00 ST HELENS FORD NOVICES CHASE (£3,973: 2m 4f 110yd) (10)

1 P-01 HEBRIDEAN 18 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 8-11-6 ... R Dunwoody 98
2 1P- QUITE A MAN 240 (F,S) W Jenks 7-11-4 ..... T Jenks 70
3 3 AMY'S BOY 2822 (S) M H Parrott 6-11-0 ..... R Davis –
4 34-P BORO HILL 39 R Allsop 6-11-0 ..... Mr M Rimell –
5 04F- EVEN BLUE 357 Mr C Black 7-11-0 ..... D McCain 56
6 /5-2 HAWKFIELD 20 (6) C Broad 6-11-0 ..... W Marston 66
7 /P BLOBSTER COTTAGE 7 K Bailey 7-11-0 ..... NON-RUNNER –
8 60P- PARSONS BOY 288 6 Richards 6-11-0 ..... B Harding –
9 35-3 SEYMOUR SPY 19 Mrs A Hewitt 6-11-0 ..... S Wynne 90
10 544- APRIL CITY 251 (B,S) C Smith 5-10-9 ..... M Rainger 55

4-9 Hebridean, 8-1 Hawkfield, 10-1 Amy's Boy, Parsons Boy, 12-1 others.

2.30 RED COAT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,696: 2m 1f) (11)

1 -U24 THROWER 9 B Preece 4-11-12 ..... G Hogan 92
2 213P FRONTIER FLIGHT 5 (F) Miss L Siddall 5-11-11 .. E Husband 96
3 60-0 PIER THIRTY NINE 20 (F,6,S) J Parker, 9-11-2 R McCarthy (5) –
4 -PP0 OLD MONEY 13 (6) C Broad 5-11-1 ..... T J Murphy –
5 SU0- BADAWI 382 N Babbage 5-11-1 ..... R Johnson –
6 -216 STEADFAST ELITE 10 (CD,B) J J O'Neill 4-11-0 ..... A Roche 89
7 0055 CHRIS'S GLEN 13 (V,F,6) J Bradley 6-10-13 ..... Guy Lewis 85
8 550- TAKE A FLYER 229 (F,G) R Hodges 5-10-13 ..... T Dascombe 83
9 6500 RAINBOW WALK 34 (V) J O'Shea 5-10-10 ..... G Lee 92
10 PP0- WILL IT LAST 228 (D,S) R Brotherton 5-10-5 ..... B Harding 89
11 550- SEASON'S STAR 288 D Burchell 5-10-4 ..... J Prior (7) 87

3-1 Chris's Glen, 7-2 Steadfast Elite, 6-1 Thrower, Take A Flyer, 8-1 others.

3.00 MAESFEN HANDICAP CHASE (£4,319: 4m 1f) (12)

1 -344 SUNLEY BAY 12 (6,S) P Nicholls 9-11-10 ..... P Hide 97
2 22-P DIAMOND FORT 11 (D,F,G,S) J McConnochie 10-11-9 S McNeill 92
3 24-0 HABTON WHIN 18 (6) M H Easterby 9-11-5 ..... L Wyer 94
4 /1F FLORIDA SKY 11 (BF,S) C Brooks 8-11-5 ..... G Bradley 97
5 -123 NINFA 27 (BF,F,G,S) G Richards, 7-11-4 ..... R Dunwoody 98
6 34-1 MAZZARO 29 (B,S) W G M Turner 6-10-11 ..... A Thornton 93
7 2-13 KEANO 29 (BF,S) P Hobbs 6-10-6 ..... W Marston 92
8 21P0 RUSTIKO 21 (B,6,S) W Cunningham 9-10-2 ..... W Fry 96
9 133- PENNINE PRIDE 331 (G,S) M Hammond 8-10-2 Mr C Bonner (5) 93
10 /05 HEY COTTAGE 18 (6,S) D McCain 10-10-0 ..... C Llewellyn 82
11 0U5F VERY CHEERING 22 (V,S) Mrs M Rowland 12-10-0 Gary Lyons –
12 P5F0 CROWN EYEGLASS 14 (G,S) R Woodhouse 9-10-0 ... L O'Hara –

7-2 Diamond Fort, 4-1 Habton Whin, Florida Sky, 6-1 Sunley Bay, Ninfa, 7-1 Mazzaro, 12-1 others.

3.30 YELLOW COLLAR INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,711: 2m 1f) (17)

1 1-5 GOLDEN DRUM 14 (BF,S) J Edwards 5-11-11 R Johnson (3) –
2 05- CAREY'S COTTAGE 211 J Edwards 5-11-4 ..... Mr M Daly (7) –
3 3 DENHAM HILL 18 C Mann 4-11-4 ..... Mureddach Kelly (7) –
4 DUBLIN FREDDY D Nicholson 4-11-4 ..... W Marston –
5 4 GOATSTUT 14 B Preece 5-11-4 ..... G Hogan (5) –
6 J'ACCUSE M Meagher 5-11-4 ..... L Wyer –
7 MAKE A BUCK L Lungo 5-11-4 ..... F Perrett (3) –
8 MULLINS D Moffatt 4-11-4 ..... D J Moffatt –
9 MY CHEEKY MAN D Nicholson 4-11-4 ..... R Massey (5) –
10 44 PILKINGTON 16 Mrs H Parrott 5-11-4 ..... S Curran (3) –
11 0 RAISE AND GAIN 18 N Tinkler-Davies 4-11-4 M Keighley (7) –
12 02 THE STITCHER 21 L Lungo 5-11-4 ..... T Reed –
13 0 ASHCAL LADY 18 T Wall 4-10-13 ..... S Wynne –
14 KAYTU'S CAROUSEL Miss V Williams 6-10-13 ..... R Farrant –
15 06 LADY LOIS 36 B Preece 4-10-13 ..... Gary Lyons –
16 0-5 ONE MORE DIME 38 J Needham 5-10-13 Mr R Thornton (7) –
17 ROC AGE B Davies 4-10-13 ..... R Davis –

4-1 Dublin Freddy, 9-2 Golden Drum, The Stitcher, Denham Hill, 8-1 others.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S TWO MEETINGS

Folkestone

Going: good

12.30 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Dontdressforsnfirmer (T Dascombe, 7-1). 2, Night In A Million (33-1); 3, Maenus Miller (13-8 fav), 8 ran 3l, 5l C Popham. Tote: £7.10; £1.70, £4.40, £1.20 DF: £55.10. CSF: £135.66 Tricast: £493.65.

1.00 (3m 2f ch) 1, Equity Player (D Walsh, 11-4 fav), 2, Woodlands Boy (5-1), 3, Full Of Oats (3-1) 8 ran NR Columcille 5l, 6l, R Curtis Tote £4.60, £1.80, £1.80, £2.20. DF: £7.80. Trio: £20.00. CSF: £17.03. Tricast: £41.06.

1.30 (3m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Happy Hostage (A P McCoy, 13-2); 2, Clowater Lady (11-2); 3, Valiant Tosk (6-1). Tickerty's Gift 3-1 fav. 14 ran. 1¼l, 7l, J White. Tote: £7.70; £2.90, £5.60, £2.00. DF: £22.80. Trio: £56.80 CSF: £41.23.

2.00 (3m 5f ch) 1, No Pain No Gain (P Hide, 6-5 fav); 2, Lookout Mountain (7-1); 3, The Golfing Curate (25-1) 12 ran. 6l, 4l, J Gifford. Tote: £1.80; £1.00, £6.50, £11.60 DF: £15.60 Trio: £128.10. CSF: £10.85.

2.30 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, Presenka Girl (D Bridgwater, 10-11 fav), 2, Envopaldeada (9-1), 3, Captain Coe (50-1). 9 ran NR: Slatar Stephenie. 1¾l, 5l, M Pipe. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £2.40, £9.00 DF: £8.40. Trio: £140.20 CSF: £9.72. Tricast: £221.87

3.00 (2m chl) 1, Le Chat Noir (B Fenton, 7-4 fav); 2, Marrabouthehouse (9-2); 3, Rather Sharp (7-2) 7 ran 3¼l, 9l D Grissell. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £3.80. DF: £9.30. CSF: £9.58

3.30 (2m 1f 110yd flat race) 1, Chaprasal (D Bridgwater, 10-11 fav), 2, Chai-Yo (5-2); 3, Sounds Like Fun (8-1) 10 ran NR Mulinor 7l, 3½l, M Pipe. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £1.20, £2.70. DF: £4.60 Trio: £15.60 CSF: £4.18

Placepot: £21.90. Quadpot: £12.20.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

1.15 (1m 4f) 1, Contec's Legend (Mrs L Pearce, 10-1); 2, Mandu (5-1); 3, Alpine Storm (25-1). Hill Farm Dancer 11-4 fav 12 ran. 6l, 2l, J Bottomley. Tote: £8.80; £2.50, £2.50, £5.10 DF: £23.60 Trio: £90.10. CSF: £52.03. Tricast: £1,093.89

1.45 (6f) 1, Little Ibnr (Amanda Sanders, 9-4 fav); 2, Cretan Gift (7-1); 3, Sing With The Band (7-2) 13 ran. Nk, 5l, P Evans. Tote: £3.90; £1.50, £2.50, £1.50 DF: £18.10 Trio: £11.10 CSF: £16.96.

2.15 (7f) 1, Honestly (S Sanders, 12-1); 2, Chitbang Bang (10-1), 3, Mytone Mistake (9-1) Blue Flyer 7-2 fav. 12 ran. 4l, 1¼l, β Smart Tote: £21.00; £2.60, £2.30, £4.20. DF: £38.60. Trio: £167.40 CSF: £114.45 Tricast: £1,031.79.

2.45 (1m 100yd) 1, Little Scarlett (N Carlisle, 14-1); 2, Forzair (8-1), 3, Master Millfield (16-1). Dr Caligari 7-2 fav. 12 ran. NR: Dawd Jamea' Girl Shind, 6l P Makin. Tote: £12.40; £3.90, £2.00, £2.70. DF: £84.40 Trio: £187.50. CSF: £107.76 Tricast: £1,636.21.

3.15 (5f) 1, Monkey Zanty (D Wright, 33-1); 2, Marino Street (7-2 fav); 3, Lady Ecko (7-2 fav) Loch Slyde 7-2 fav. 13 ran Nk, 1¼l, J L Harris. Tote: £22.80, £4.30, £2.70, £2.40. DF: £67.80. Trio: £177.90. CSF: £151.81 No bid.

3.45 (7f) 1, Certain Way (T G McLaughlin, 12-1), 2, Maple Bay (8-1); 3, Deeply Vale (5-2 fav) 12 ran Nk, 1¼l, N Littmoden. Tote: £13.90, £3.20, £3.10, £1.70. DF: £59.40 Trio: £54.10. CSF: £83.16. Tricast: £285.32.

4.15 (1m 4f) 1, Pistols At Dawn (Miss J Alison, 9-2); 2, Roustino (8-1); 3, Modest Hope (8-1) Buckley Boys 11-4 fav 11 ran. NR: Bread Vi, 5l, B Meehan. Tote: £4.70; £1.80, £2.30, £1.80 DF: £14.70. Trio: £24.70 CSF: £38.01. Tricast: £198.63

4.45 (7f) 1, Raids (D Wright, 33-1); 2, Northern Spark (7-4 fav); 3, Desert Invader (6-1) 12 ran. 3l, 1¼l, M Britain. Tote: £41.40; £7.10, £1.70, £2.20. DF: £100.30. Trio: £222.60 CSF: £92.13 Tricast: £395.19

Jackpot: not won (pool of £10,455.43 carried forward to Exeter today).

Placepot: £672.20. Quadpot: £163.10.

EXETER

THUNDERER

12.45 Nordic Valley
1.15 Trying Again
1.45 Mildred Sophia
2.15 Romany Creek
2.45 Much Sought After
3.15 Lucky Blue

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ..... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified) Horse's name. Days since last outing. F of flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

12.45 WESTCOUNTRY TELEVISION CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,246: 2m 2f) (11 runners)

107 3/0 BILLY BARTER 12 (The Cornish Connection) G Balding 5-11-8 ..... B Clifford –
102 131123 NORDIC VALLEY 9 (C,F,S,S) (Pond House Racing) M Pipe 4-11-8 ..... D Bridgwater 98
103 0/6- LONZA VALLEY 314 (A Chapperton) D Gandolfo 6-11-4 ..... D Leahy –
104 34-1121 NORTHERN STARLIGHT 20 (F,6) (A South) R Baker 4-11-4 ..... Mr A Fitzgerald 92
105 P13023 LITTLE HOOLIGAN 20 (B,G,F) (G Edwards) G Edwards 4-11-0 ..... A P McCoy 76
106 5-0UUPF DONT RISE ME 6 (M Churches) M Churches 6-10-12 ..... Mr L Jefford –
107 0-0 THE GAUFFER 41 (B) (J M & J W Cook) C Nash 4-10-12 ..... C Maude –
108 40013-5 FLEUR DE TAL 6 (C,F,G) (J Woods) W G M Turner 4-10-9 ..... T Murphy (7) 88
109 STORM MISSILE (S Hanly) H C Turner 5-10-9 ..... Mr Richard Wilde (7) –
110 4P048/3 COOCHIE 34 (B,F) (S McCracken) R Baker 5-10-3 ..... B Powell 78
111 0 DUALITY 20 (Mrs G Green) S Cole 4-10-1 ..... R Bellamy –

BETTING: 5-4 Nordic Valley, 7-2 Northern Starlight, 4-1 Fleur De Tal, 5-1 Little Hooligan, 14-1 Coosnie, 16-1 Lonza Valley, 20-1 others.

1994: JUST ONE CANALETTO 6-11-0 D Bridgwater (5-1) N Twiston-Davies 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

NORDIC VALLEY short-head and 9l 3rd of 6 to The Caumsue in handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good) with FLEUR DE TAL (2lb better off) 25l 5th. LONZA VALLEY about 21l 6th of 16 to Lord McMurrough in National Hunt Flat race at Towcester (2m, heavy). NORTHERN STARLIGHT beat Supermick, 16l in 6-runner mares' handicap hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good) with LITTLE HOOLIGAN (12lb worse off) 31½l 3rd. LITTLE HOOLIGAN 4l 2nd of 11 to River Leven in novices' handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good) on penultimate start. FLEUR DE TAL best effort last season, beat Marrowfat Lady head in 7-runner novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, firm). Selection: NORDIC VALLEY

1.15 BBC RADIO DEVON NOVICES CHASE (£3,948: 2m 2f) (13 runners)

201 1FF MASTER RYON 22 (F,G) (H Richards) R Alner 7-11-7 ..... C Maude 60
202 01/05- BLUE DOCTOR 265 (S) (Mrs E Eagley) R Hodges 5-11-0 ..... J Frost –
203 06P/F BROWN ROBBER 29 (W Henderson) Mrs R Henderson 7-11-0 ..... D Salter –
204 0-23F CAMPECHE BAY 12 (J Kinnear) G Balding 6-11-0 ..... A P McCoy –
205 000/F0- FIVEPERCENT 396 (The Hole In The Wall Gang) C Barwell 7-11-0 ... B Clifford –
206 443/UP/ FREDS MELODY 684 (F Tucker) F Tucker 10-11-0 ..... G Upton –
207 5344-F2 GROUND NUT 14 (S) (Mrs R Hanbury) R Buckler 5-11-0 ..... B Powell 88
208 30633-2 MR PICKPOCKET 20 (S) (R Sayer) Miss H Knight 7-11-0 ..... J F Titley 88
209 214-2/0 NEMURO 19 (F,G) (Tarl City Racing) D Elsworth 7-11-0 ..... P Holley –
210 0P60/P OLIVER DUCKETT 16 (Mrs J Sidebottom) Mrs J Sidebottom 6-11-0 Mr J Jukes –
211 33/1/33/ SORBIERE 596 (F) (Mrs R Preston) N Henderson 8-11-0 ..... M A Fitzgerald –
212 64/06P-6 TANGO'S DELIGHT 28 (E, Fry) D Elsworth 7-11-0 ..... A Procter (3) –
213 11220-4 TRYING AGAIN 21 (BF,S) (Mr Dore) D Gandolfo 7-11-0 ..... M Dwyer 91

BETTING: 5-2 Ground Nut, 7-2 Trying Again, 9-2 Nemuro, 8-1 Mr Pickpocket, Campeche Bay, 10-1 Sorbiere, 16-1 others.

1994: HIGH BARON 7-11-0 R Dunwoody (8-11 fav) R Alner 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

MASTER RYON best effort this season, beat Our Wizzer 13½l in 2-runner novice chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to firm) CAMPECHE BAY every chance when fell 3 out in 9-runner novice chase won by Pemberley Place over course and distance (good to soft). GROUND NUT 4l 2nd of 5 to Brass Dl Mar in novice chase at Hereford (2m 3f, good to soft). MR PICKPOCKET 14l 2nd of 12 to Falmouth Bay in novice chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good). BROWN ROBBER beaten in 4th when fell 3 out, NEMURO, useful handicap hurdler, best effort this season when 8l 2nd of 6 to Jalcanto in handicap hurdle at Kempton (3m 5f, good to firm). SORBIERE 61¼l 3rd of 8 to Happy Horse in handicap hurdle at Ascot (3m, good), April 1994. TRYING AGAIN, very useful hurdler at best, two heads and 5l 4th of 14 to Seek The Faith in novice chase at Chepstow (3m 110yd, good to soft). Selection: GROUND NUT (nap)

1.45 WESTERN MORNING NEWS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,975: 2m 3f 110yd) (13 runners)

301 026-650 DOMINION TREASURE 25 (B,C,F,G,S) (R Baker) R Baker 10-11-10 ... L Harvey 90
302 4431P/U MISS PIMPERNEL 6 (F) (D Hazzard) A Barrow 5-11-7 ..... D Salter (5) –
303 040320- MR PLAYFULL 202 (P Taylor) R Frost 5-11-4 ..... J Frost 88
304 P14-PFP MINT A MILLION 8 (S) (P Kindon) M Blanshard 4-11-3 ..... D Gallagher 88
305 4200-S0 LUKS AKURA 13 (V,S) (Maddaton Screen Investments) W Clay 7-11-2 A P McCoy 98
306 003P0- BAYBELLINA 165 (J Bugler) R Buckler 4-11-1 ..... B Powell 88
307 00283-0 MILDRED SOPHIA 12 (S) (N Mitchell) N Mitchell 8-10-10 Sophie Mitchell (5) 93
308 /FF-6P YES WE ARE 42 (A Barrow) A Barrow 5-10-10 ..... M A Fitzgerald –
309 61P-P40 SNICKERSNEE 12 (F) (P Farrell) P Farrell 7-10-10 ..... Mr J Culloty (7) 98
310 5/0PPP MAMZOOR SAYADAN 14 (B,6) (Mrs A Appleyard) P Murphy 7-10-9 .. N Mann –
311 3P0-P0P MAMALAMA 14 (F) (I Jones) I Jones, 7-10-6 ..... Miss E J Jones (7) 90
312 PPP6F-P CROSA'S DELIGHT 40 (Bisgrove Partnership) M Pipe 8-10-5 ... D Bridgwater –
313 0PP/0 UNSUSPICIOUS 42 (P Rich) P Rich 5-10-1 ..... D Leahy –

BETTING: 7-2 Baybellina, 5-1 Dominion Treasure, 6-1 Luks Akura, 7-1 Mr Playfull, 8-1 Mildred Sophia, Crosa's Delight, 12-1 others

1994: BRIGTINA 6-10-5 R Farrant (9-1) J Bradley 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

DOMINION TREASURE 25l 7th of 13 to Bonismore Flash in selling handicap hurdle at Nottingham (3m 110yd, good to firm). MISS PIMPERNEL best effort over hurdles, beat Hotdiggity ½l in 8-runner claiming hurdle at Perth (3m 110yd, firm). May 1994. MR PLAYFULL neck 2nd of 17 to Caswell Duck Step in selling novice hurdle here (2m 1f 110yd, firm) MINT A MILLION 3rd when last 2 out in 10-runner selling hurdle won by Celeste's Choice at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, soft) on penultimate start. LUKS AKURA 43l 9th of 17 to Edward Seymour in selling handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). BAYBELLINA best effort last season when 61¼l 3rd of 15 to Cadougold in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good). MILDRED SOPHIA 38l 7th of 15 to Spring Saint in handicap hurdle here (2m 2f, good to soft) with SNICKERSEE (3lb better off) 53l 14th. Selection: BAYBELLINA

2.15 EDIMBOURG HANDICAP CHASE (£5,296: 2m 7f 110yd) (6 runners)

401 11FP-40 GIVUS A BUCK 18 (B,F,6,S) (A Costello) D Elsworth 12-12-0 ..... P Holley –
402 114-321 DUHALLOW LODGE 20 (6,S) (H Spack) C Barwell 8-11-5 ..... D Bridgwater 97
403 FP1-212 STAUNCH RIVAL 38 (D,F,6,S) (C Humphrey) G Thorner 8-11-5.. M A Fitzgerald 96
404 FPP-430 BISHOPS ISLAND 13 (D,S) (Lord Vestey) Miss H Knight 9-11-2 G F Ryan (5) 88
405 3-22131 ROMANY CREEK 7 (V,F,6,S) (Duke of Atholl) B Balding 6-11-0 (bex) A P McCoy 88
406 55/36-46 LITTLE TOM 13 (F,G,S) (M O'Connor) J King 10-10-3 ..... G Upton 82

BETTING: 3-1 Duhallow Lodge, 5-2 Romany Creek, 11-4 Staunch Rival, 8-1 Givus A Buck, 10-1 Bishops Island, 14-1 Little Tom.

1994: EDIMBOURG 8-10-10 J Osborne (1-2 fav) Miss H Knight 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

GIVUS A BUCK 101l 8th of 11 to Couldnt Be Better in grade III Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup Handicap at Newbury (3m 2½ 110yd, soft). DUHALLOW LODGE best Silpa Valu 6l in 5-runner handicap beat Tournon Prince 3l in 7-runner handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good). STAUNCH RIVAL 9l 2nd of 4 to Straight Talk in handicap chase at Sandown (3m 110yd, good to firm). BISHOPS ISLAND 161¼l 3rd of 5 to Stop The Waller in handicap chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good to soft). ROMANY CREEK beat Silpa Valu 6l in 5-runner handicap chase at Leicester (3m, good to firm). LITTLE TOM 37l 4th of 8 to Northern Saddler in handicap chase here (2m 110yd, soft) on penultimate start. Selection: DUHALLOW LODGE

2.45 HENRIETTA KNIGHT BIRTHDAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,175: 2m 2f) (17 runners)

501 051321 AMILLIONMEMORIES 96 (F,6) (S Merritt & E Burns) Mrs B Waring 5-12-0 E Byrne 85
502 66- CRAVATE 219 (R Mills) Mrs J Mills 5-12-0 ..... Mr R Mills –
503 00/5452- PURBECK CAVALIER 284 (B Curtis) Mrs J Reiter 6-11-11 ..... A P McCoy 88
504 53-32 PERHAPS 12 (BF) (H Weston) Miss H Knight 4-11-10 ..... G F Ryan (5) 92
505 514-045 STEVE FORD 11 (6) (P Morgan) C Nash 6-11-7 ..... J R Kavanagh 96
506 202/4F-0 GENERAL TONIC 13 (Starlight Racing) D Gandolfo 8-11-5 ..... M Dwyer 90
507 4F-1365 MUCH SOUGHT AFTER 27 (F) (The MSA Partnership) K Burke 6-11-5 M A Fitzgerald 96
508 681-133 DARK NIGHTINGALE 19 (G) (Miss L Clark) O Sherwood 5-11-4 ..... J Osborne 90
509 00/11PP MORNING BLUSH 2 (C,F,S) (Bisgrove Partnership) M Pipe 5-11-2 D Bridgwater 91
510 0F0-5B4 LUGS BRANNIGAN 11 (J Cowley) M Bradstock 6-11-2 ..... P Holley 95
511 B22-2 ROYAL AS NAB 34 (BF) (Royal Agricultural College) P Hobbs 5-10-13 Peter Hobbs 94
512 0-12222 SUPERMICK 9 (S) (Mrs J Mold) W Mour 4-10-8 ..... M Richards 88
513 60/000-2 PRAIRIE GROVE 14 (Mrs M O'Reilly Mec) H Knight 5-10-6.. Mr J Culloty (7) 88
514 0P/0/U4 MEEDWOOD NATIVE 18 (D Blagden) A J Wilson 7-10-0 ..... L Harvey 80
515 0/R0-RP0 CARNIV

Charlton's worn force faces examination by Holland's young masters

Ireland foundering on rock of ages

By Rob Hughes
Football Correspondent



Charlton, left, the Ireland manager, and Townsend discuss tactics during training at Queensferry yesterday. Photograph: Chris Loufte

THE pulse races ahead of the play-off between Ireland and Holland for the sixteenth and last place in the European championship finals in England next year.

Anfield has witnessed this type of winner-takes-all tension before, not least in the final moments of the 1989 league championship, when Arsenal wrenched the title from Liverpool in front of the Kop. Yet nothing can test heart, nerve and sinew more than the contest tonight, when men of both sides will be reaching for a chance that may never come their way again.

This, of course, is particularly true of the ageing Irish: half of their team will not see 30 again. Jack Charlton, their manager and famous fisherman, whose cussed will has cajoled them to an unprecedented decade of World Cup and European championship appearances, knows that he has never landed anything bigger than the prize he seeks in Liverpool. In terms of skill, of youth, of sheer footballing technique, his team is out of its depth.

This, of course, does not mean that Ireland will lose. It has never meant that in Charlton's time, and the tide of 19,000 followers crossing the Irish Sea, to fill almost half of the stadium, will be singing long before time: "You'll never beat the Irish!"

The retort, from an expected 14,000 supporters in orange, will be that, with Dutch courage, with the class of Ajax, maybe Holland will.

Achieving neutrality will be nearly impossible. Everyone who enters Anfield will have a preference because of the polarised natures of the way that Ireland and Holland approach their game.

Ireland play it long. They belt the living daylights out of the ball, they pressurise and they pulverise, and, as the refrain suggests, they neither recognise defeat nor acknowledge those blessed with greater gifts.

Yet there is a submissive hint in the team that Charlton has chosen for tonight. He has doubled up on the full backs, playing Jeff Kenna and Terry Phelan in front of Gary Kelly and Denis Irwin, no doubt in fear of the balanced trickery offered by Marc Overmars on the right and Glenn Helder on the left.

They might successfully entrap the wing play of the Dutch, but this is where Holland's strategic planning may hold sway. For, down the centre, urged forward by Danny Blind, the captain, they have a teenaged duo, Patrik Kluivert and Clarence Seedorf, eager and willing to test the worn fulcrum of Ireland.

Paul McGrath, 36, but a year younger than the wily John Aldridge, has played seven seasons on borrowed time. He is, rightly, a legend in the Emerald Isle, a player advised to quit because of chronic knee damage at Manchester United, whose subsequent years at Aston Villa, and whose resilience in reaching 80 caps for Ireland, defy medical opinion.

He seldom visits the training ground, perspires instead in the weights room, yet his reading of the play, his ability to make two strides do what others may require in five, are indeed worthy of one last shot at a top tournament.

Fears for McGrath can be set aside, but what would the doctors say of John Sheridan? A comparative stripling of 31, a man capable of matching the silken touch of the Dutch, he is the shield intended to protect McGrath and Phil Babb.

Sheridan's knee was operated on six weeks ago; since then, he has played 14 minutes for Sheffield Wednesday. "It's not a problem," he said. "I know I can last a full game."

Can he really? The Irish spirit will be as willing as Sheridan, but we shall know after 90 minutes, maybe after 120 minutes, perhaps after a sudden-death goal or even the dreaded penalties, how long Ireland can resist a Dutch team built around the all-conquering Ajax youth brigade.

Ireland, without Roy Keane and Steve Staunton (injured), and Niall Quinn (suspended) leave out the Liverpool pair, Jason McAteer and Mark Kennedy, but hope that the experience of Tony Cascarino and Aldridge can capitalise on invading the space that Holland's adventurous pressing game gambles on leaving between their defenders and goalkeeper.

"Their passion is our problem," Blind said, acknowledging that all the advantages in skill that his players possess will be run to ground unless they match the desire, the sheer effort, that Ireland will undoubtedly produce.

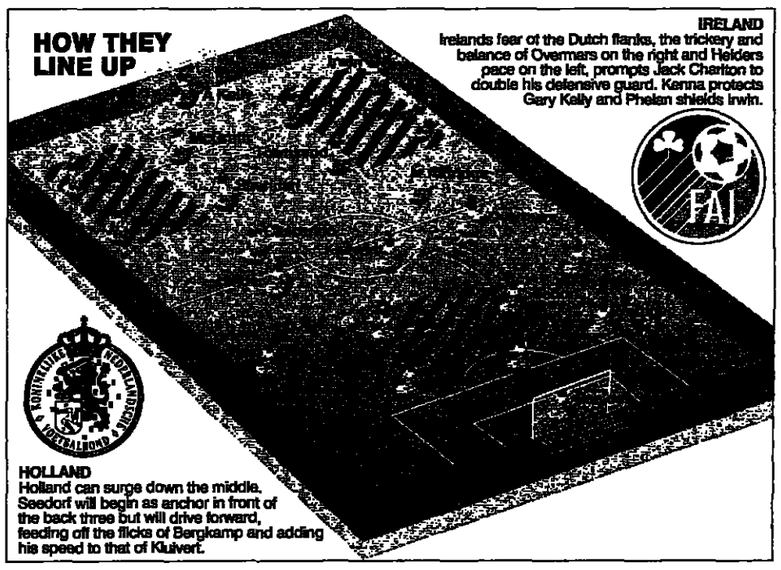
If it is a long contest, if Ireland cannot some how impose their force and score early on, then surely the advantage in Dutch years will prevail.

The physical strain that has enabled Ireland to compete above themselves for years somehow made it appear that they sweated pure Guinness; infirmity now suggests a watering down of that power, and unless the Dutch freeze, which their youngsters have done before, then the best that Ireland will experience is the comradeship and spirit that flows from their supporters.

In Orlando last year, at the World Cup, no matter that Holland beat Ireland; the street parties, the revelries, were led by the Irish. You could age a year in a night partying with them, but at Anfield there will be a sober and assured message.

It is customary for participating sides to be granted VIP tickets for honoured guests. Ireland sent theirs to the Football Association of Northern Ireland, whose vice-president, Ivan Marshall, treasurer, Eddie Barry, and team manager, Bryan Hamilton, will sit at Anfield, as guests of the south. One only hopes that the politicians and the religious leaders can take heed of the message.

HOW THEY LINE UP



IRELAND
Irelands fear of the Dutch flanks, the trickery and balance of Overmars on the right and Helders pace on the left, prompts Jack Charlton to double his defensive guard. Kenna protects Gary Kelly and Phelan shields Irwin.

HOLLAND
Holland can surge down the middle. Seedorf will begin as anchor in front of the back three but will drive forward, feeding off the flicks of Bergkamp and adding his speed to that of Kluivert.

Sport selling its soul in pursuit of cheap thrills

OK, bloke goes to the doctor, and the doctor says, OK, I've got some good news and some bad news, and the bloke says, OK, doc, give me the bad.... Hello? Hello? You seem disconcerted. What's the problem? Look, this column has been in existence for a jolly long time, so I thought instead of writing about sport, I'd tell you a couple of dirty jokes.

I don't understand. You seem to think this is inappropriate. But I always write about sport, and the point is that the paper might pull in a few more punters if I told some cheap jokes, and anyway, I fancy an easy week. So what's the problem?

After all, I am only following the precedent set by the England cricket team. They were involved in a four-day cricket match against Boland. On Saturday, after three days, they decided it was going nowhere, so they packed it in, and played a one-day match instead.

My colleague, Alan Lee, said it was like abandoning a 0-0 draw in a football match on the hour and playing a five-a-side exhibition instead. The analogy is good, although it breaks down at the point when one realises that five-a-side is different to the 11-man game, but not actually inferior.

Perhaps it was more like Nigel Short and Garry Kasparov agreeing after a couple of dozen moves that the match was set for stalemate. So why not play draughts? Or snakes and ladders? Or Coe and Ovett: I say. Seb, this unending rivalry stuff is getting to be a bit of a bore. Why don't we have a sack race instead? The punters will love it.

Yes, and we'll have next year's Derby on donkeys to see if we can't bring in a few extra bob that way. And at Wimbledon, we get desperately fed up with all these eternal service-dominated games, so why not just have the fashion parade and the groupies and the strawberries, and forget about the tennis altogether?

And on and on. We must, whatever we do, cater for people with a short attention span. Yes, yes, of course change the rules, of course change the game, even at half-time, if there is the remotest danger of uncommitted people being bored even for a second. Sport, after all, is first and foremost entertainment, is it not? And these days we have to compete with *Gladiators* and the American wrestling on the television.

Have you ever been to a Fun Pub? A Fun Pub is a pub that is designed to look like something else. Say, a sailing ship, with bars called Ye Fo'c's'le and Ye Rum Locker. Or Victorian Life: Jack the Ripper's Cellar, the Fanny by Gaslight Bar. Fun Pub, indeed! I don't go to a pub to have fun. I go for a drink.

It is the same with sport. I don't go there to be entertained. Nor do I switch on the television to be entertained by sport. I switch on because I don't know the result.

In that match at Boland, England could have been bowled out in three overs for a desperate defeat. Or Crawley and Thorpe could have torn the Boland attack apart, Phil DeFreitas and all. Unlikely, but possible. But they didn't even try, and now we'll never know.

The idea that sport needs to be fun and that athletes are entertainers is a deep and dreadful heresy. I suppose there are people in the world who think an 11-hour innings to force a draw is a bit of a drag. In a way, it was. It certainly wasn't fun. But it was Atherton's masterpiece, and it was enthralling: high competition, high achievement. It is that sort of thing — not a six-hit competition — that is the stuff of cricket and of sport.

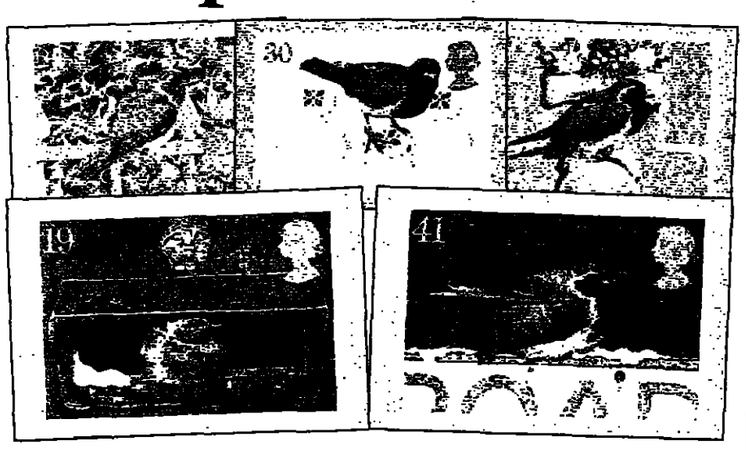

SIMON BARNES

Sport has no obligation to entertain, only to enthral. That is to say, an obligation to strive. Nottingham Forest's two-leg tie against Lyons was pretty boring in its way: 1-0 over two legs, and it was all about packing midfield and keeping tight at the back. No fun, but that was also, in its way, enthralling.

Do we conclude that football has it right? But football also changes the game in midstream, shifting from the real thing to a ghastly, cheapshot entertainment package, and does so at the highest peak of importance the game can reach — the final of the World Cup. It is called the penalty shoot-out, and it is not football, and it is not enthralling at all. It is fun.

The penalty shoot-out, the Boland decision, and all such pack-'em-in modifications to a sport — the designated hitter in baseball, the refuelling stop in Formula One — betray competition for fun. Each one is a betrayal: a knife in the heart of sport. *Et tu*, Illingworth?

THE TIMES
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Danes pose stern test of Olympic prospects

By Norman de Mesquita

GREAT BRITAIN meet Denmark in Milton Keynes this evening in the second of their Olympic ice hockey qualifying games and will hope to build on the success gained against Holland in October.

Denmark are likely to provide stronger opposition than the disappointing Dutch. They have played one game in the competition, beating Slovenia 4-2 last month, when it was thought that Slovenia might be the strongest team in the group. That result indicates that the Danes have got their house in order after a period during which their national ice hockey programme was in some disarray.

Nevertheless, Peter Woods, the Great Britain coach, is confident. "I am very excited about the way things went last time out," he said, "and hopefully we can repeat our success."

That success against Holland was based on a three-day training camp before the game and, once again, 33 players have been invited to prepare at Milton Keynes. Nineteen of them are dual-nationals, with Steve Moria, 34, who acquired his British passport only recently, the latest addition to the squad.

Unfortunately, like so many Canadian-born players, Moria is now past his best in playing terms and little regard is being paid to the developing the future of the domestic game. The meeting with Switzerland in Lausanne next week might put Britain's position into better perspective.

Club crews favoured in Henley changes

By Mike Rosewell
Rowing Correspondent

THE Henley stewards yesterday agreed to an overhaul of the qualifying rules for four events at the Royal Regatta. The 1995 regatta saw a record 544 crews from 18 nations and a profit of £179,000, but in the background there were mutterings of discontent over the eligibility of certain crews for the events that they entered.

The changes announced yesterday centre on the Thames and Temple Cups for eights and the Wyfold and Britannia Cups for coxless and coxed fours. The Thames and the Wyfold events will now be for club crews only. Any crews from academic institutions will be barred. In addition, these two events and the Britannia will be closed to crews from "any institute, association or similar body whose objective is to develop international representative crews." Some grey areas could remain for large clubs like Leander and London; indeed, for any smaller club that finds itself with international aspirants.

Crews entering the Thames and the Wyfold will also be allowed only two former internationals on board.

The Temple Cup eights remains for student crews, but no previous Henley winner, except of a schools event, and no British senior, under-23 or World Student Games performer will be allowed. Also debarred are Oxford and Cambridge Blues, London University Purples and members of "analogous crews" from abroad.

Calm Nicol puts himself first

From Colin McQuillan in Bombay

PETER NICOL, the Scottish squash champion who refused to play for his country in the world team championship last month to improve his fortunes on the individual circuit, justified his gamble here last night by beating Chris Walker in the final of the Mahindra Challenge at the Cricket Club of India.

The first British victory in a PSA Super Series event was the product of the first all-British final at such a level and, unusually, of a contest between left-handers.

Nicol, at 22, has won before on the world tour and at national open events in Singapore, the United States and, most recently, in Canada; but, by his own admission, this was his most satisfying moment since he broke into the senior game by securing a first European team championship for Scotland, during which they defeated England in the semi-finals for the first time, in May 1992.

"Probably this is the best," Nicol said last night after completing victory against the Englishman in 55 minutes by 15-8, 15-11, 15-10.

"It was hard to decide against representing Scotland, but I knew I had to concentrate on the circuit to get my ranking back after a long problem with tonsillitis and time out for surgery in the summer.

"I was still not fully fit when we started this leg of the tour and I didn't feel up to five weeks of non-stop squash, which is what most of the players have had since the World Open in Nicosia," Nicol explained.

Walker, 28, was showing signs from the start in this, his first Super Series final, of the demands of his quarter-final and semi-final matches, while Nicol's fitness was reinforced by the speedy removal of earlier opponents here.

The young Scot is an unspectacular but relentlessly efficient performer at peak form and his overall control allows even the finest shots to mesh almost seamlessly into his rallying.

So complete was his command of the final stages of each game here that he won the opener in 16 minutes, from 9-7, in two hands, the second in 17 minutes from 6-7, also in two hands, and the third, in 18 minutes, from 10-7, finishing on a backhand shot deep in the right corner.

Walker, at game point in the first, was persuaded in desperation to conjure an attempted disguise so complex that he finished up hitting the ball backwards.


Nicol: gamble

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West Ham manager rues defeat

Angry Redknapp hits back after loss of Miklosko

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

LUDEK MIKLOSKO is a mild-mannered sort, not the type to generate controversy or debate, but yesterday the big West Ham United goalkeeper was the focus of a renewed discussion over when a goalkeeper should be sent off and when he should not. Dismissed on Monday night for a head-high tackle of Daniel Amokachi, Miklosko's early departure contributed to West Ham's summary 3-0 defeat by Everton at Goodison Park and Harry Redknapp, the club's manager, was still not happy the morning after the night before.

Mike Reed, the referee, showed Miklosko a red card two minutes before half-time, leaving Julian Dicks, the full back, to take up duties between the posts just in time to see David Unsworth sweep the ball past him from the penalty spot. His fumble allowed John Ebbrell to scramble in a third goal after the interval — Graham Stuart had scored the first — as West Ham struggled in vain to cope with Miklosko's loss.

"It was a harsh penalty decision," Redknapp complained. "Ludo has never done anything wrong in his life. It spoilt the game. He lost the ball and his bearings."

Dicks added: "I didn't think the sending off was fair. It changed the game and the referee had to make the decision."

Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said: "I don't like to see keepers sent off, but I don't think the referee had any option. Daniel landed on his back and that could have been dangerous. I didn't think the result hinged on that decision. We were in control at that point."

West Ham, however, will not be appealing against the dismissal after the referee confirmed that the decision was taken because Miklosko denied Amokachi a goalscoring opportunity rather than for dangerous play, which will mean just a one-match ban.

The drama overshadowed the return of Duncan Ferguson to Everton's ranks. The Scotland striker made his reappearance on the FA Carling Premiership stage after his release from prison with an appearance as a second-half substitute. He forced a good save out of Dicks, who dived to his right to smother a powerful header, but otherwise made little impression.

Ian Feuer is thinking over a £580,000 move to Luton Town after West Ham refused to guarantee the American first-team football at Upton Park. Feuer had been on loan at Luton for three months until last Sunday.

Roy Keane is hoping to be passed fit to play for Manchester United away to Liverpool on Sunday. Keane, 24, who last month underwent his second hernia operation this year, lost his battle to be fit for Ireland's European championship play-off against Holland at Anfield tonight, but he saw a specialist yesterday and Alex Ferguson, the United manager, is optimistic that Keane will be able to play.

"Roy has done well," Ferguson said. "He saw the specialist to check on his progress and to see if we can step up his training to the real heavy stuff. We have an A team game at home to Liverpool on Saturday and if Roy is given the go ahead, I'll be looking to try and give him an hour in that match. You never know, if he comes through that without mishap, he may be able to go with us to Liverpool on Sunday and sit on the substitutes' bench."

Ferguson admitted that he had been over-optimistic in predicting that Keane would be ready to play for Ireland this week. "I made a mistake in thinking Roy had his operation six weeks ago, which is why I was quite hopeful for the Ireland match, but it is actually only five weeks since the surgery and then he had to return home for a family funeral which delayed him further," he said.

Richard Edghill, the Manchester City defender, is likely to be out for the rest of the season with a knee injury. Edghill, 21, was carried off the pitch at Leeds ten days ago and City yesterday confirmed that he has a ruptured cruciate ligament that requires an operation.

FA declares support for ban on Hauge

GRAHAM KELLY, the chief executive of the Football Association, yesterday confirmed English clubs would be officially informed of the worldwide ban on the disgraced Norwegian agent, Rune Hauge.

Hauge was removed from the list of licensed agents by the executive committee of Fifa, the game's world governing body, at its meeting in Paris on Monday.

"We will send the Fifa circular to all our clubs notifying them of the various decisions taken," Kelly said, "but if any club does use the services of Mr Hauge and falls foul of Fifa, we cannot intervene on their behalf. We must do what Fifa says."

The Norwegian had been suspended by Fifa from acting in any transfers after it was revealed he had paid £440,000 to George Graham, the former Arsenal manager, after the transfers of Pal Lydersen, of Norway, and John Jensen, the Danish midfield player.

But Hauge ignored the suspension and used intermediaries in the transfers of Pontus Kamark, the Swedish international, to Leicester City, and Lars Bohinen to Blackburn Rovers from Nottingham Forest.

Fifa's response was to indefinitely ban Hauge from involvement in any transfer although no action will be taken over the Kamark and Bohinen deals. "We are making it clear that in future, any individuals or clubs who avoid our decisions will face the consequences themselves," a Fifa official said.



GILL ALLEN

Torvill and Dean, whose imaginative programme lit up the practice session yesterday

Britons practise perfection

BY JOHN HENNESSY

IF THEIR practice yesterday is anything to go by, another *tour de force* by Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean is in prospect at the Nutrasweet Challenge of Champions professional ice skating competition at the London Arena tomorrow evening.

They produced so many innovations, freed from the restrictions once imposed by the International Skating Union, that one wonders anew at the inexhaustibly fertile imagination that they can bring to ice dance.

Nor need they fear that some judge will find means to penalise them. "There are virtually no rules," Dean said, "except that our programme should not fall short of three minutes and not exceed 4½ — and if it did, it wouldn't matter."

The British pair still seem to bear some psychological scars from their defeat in the 1994 Winter Olympic Games. "We were pleased with the way we skated," Torvill said, "and were very disappointed not to have won."

Yet that setback seems to have done them no harm since they have, if anything, commanded greater public support than they had done ten years earlier after their triumph in Sarajevo.

How long might they go on? "We'll skate again next year," Dean said, "and probably the year after that, but then Jayne will be pushing 40." It will be hard for them to stop, with professional skating growing at a remarkable and lucrative pace, notably in the United States. Only in Great Britain does there seem to be a decline in interest, Torvill and Dean apart.

Torvill and Dean arrived in London after victory last week at the world professional championships in the United States. Tomorrow, as then, they will use music by Paul Simon (*Bridge Over Troubled Water*) but, by rule, which Dean seems momentarily to have overlooked, it has to be a different programme.

They face formidable opposition from Usova and Zhulin, Rahkamo and Kokko, and Annenko and Sretenski in competing for a first prize of $40,000 (about £26,000).

Among those taking part in the three other events are Robin Cousins, Victor Petrenko, Kurt Browning, Katarina Witt, Denise Biellmann, Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler.

Binns's late strike puts an end to Scottish resistance

England Under-21 21
Scotland Under-21 18

BY MARK SOUSTER

SCOTLAND'S litany of woe against England in recent years continued at Gateshead last night when a dropped goal five minutes from time, by Simon Binns, their stand-off, that went over off a post, earned the home side a narrow victory in the first international between the countries at this level.

England, methodical, powerful and deliberate, were effective through the strength of their forwards, while the lighter Scottish divisions had to be content with living off their ingenuity.

England's dominance in the set piece told as early as the sixth minute, when they scored their first try. The English had rumbled into the Scots' 22 and, from a scrum, Scott Benton, the scrum half, slipped past the defence to score. Binns added the conversion.

Mike Duncan, a late replacement for the injured Chris Richards at stand-off, missed two penalty attempts, the first of which hit an upright, before the Scots deservedly scored their first try. Bulloch drove through a gap at a ruck to touch down. Duncan converted.

After 27 minutes, Binns kicked a penalty goal and England were 18-7 ahead at half-time with a try from Catling. A penalty goal and a dropped goal by Duncan reduced the arrears and, when England infringed at the ruck, Beveridge fed David McLeish for a try to make it 18-18, but then Binns settled the issue with his late dropped goal.

SCORERS: England Under-21: Tries: Benton, Catling. Conversion: Binns. Dropped goal: Binns. Penalty goals: Binns (2). Scotland Under-21: Tries: Bulloch, McLeish. Conversion: Duncan. Dropped goal: Duncan. Penalty goal: Duncan.

ENGLAND UNDER-21: C Catling (Exeter University); M Shaw (West Hartlepool), J Overend (Leicester), M Denney (Bristol, captain), A Sleightholme (Wakefield), S Binns (Leicester), S Benton (Gloucester); A Ozdemir (Harlequins), N McCarthy (Bath), M Fitzgerald (West Hartlepool), A Bennett (Orrell), B Kay (Waterloo), R Fidler (Gloucester), J Worsley (Wasps), E Pearce (Bath). Benton replaced by P Harvey (Brunel University, 24mn).

SCOTLAND UNDER-21: C Sangster (Stirling County); C MacRobert (Stirling County), C Murray (Hawick), G Smith (Orrell), S Reed (Nottingham); M Duncan (Edinburgh Academicals), G Beveridge (Boroughmuir), D Massey (Currie), G Bulloch (West of Scotland), B Stewart (Edinburgh Academicals), D McLeish (West of Scotland), G Perrett (West of Scotland), S Murray (Edinburgh Acsdemicals), G Dall (Heriot's, captain), T McVie (Heriot's). McLeish replaced by C Cottrill (Langholm, 69).

Referee: D McHugh (Ireland).

IN BRIEF

Mushtaq inspires Pakistan triumph

MUSHTAQ AHMED, the Pakistan spinner, bowled his side to a 161-run victory over New Zealand in the one-off cricket Test match in Christchurch early yesterday. The leg spinner finished with seven for 56 as Pakistan secured their triumph in little more than an hour on the final day.

Waqar Younis became the youngest player, at 24, to take 200 Test wickets when he bowled Dion Nash. New Zealand, who needed 357 to win, were dismissed for 195, with Roger Twose providing the only prolonged resistance. He finished unbeaten on 51, his second half-century of the match.

Moana signs

Rugby league: Halifax have signed the New Zealander, Martin Moana, from Auckland Warriers, for the remainder of the season and first two Super League campaigns, but are missing four seasoned international players, John Bentley, John Schuster, Paul Moriarty and John Fieldhouse, for the visit to Wigan tonight in the Stones Championship. Kris Radlinski and Kelvin Skerrett return after injury for Wigan. Va'aiga Tuigamala and Jason Robinson await late tests.

Miami twice

American football: The Miami Dolphins revived their hopes of reaching the play-offs with a 13-6 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs late on Monday. It was the second consecutive victory for the Dolphins — one of the preseason favourites to contest the Super Bowl — and their embattled coach, Don Shula. The win sets up a showdown on Sunday with Buffalo, who lead them by one game with two to play in the American Conference east division.

False start

Motor racing: Jacques Villeneuve, the Formula One newcomer who will partner Damon Hill in the Williams Renault next year, emerged unscathed from a crash in practice at Estoril, Portugal yesterday, but damaged the front of his car. Hill, who was second-fastest of the day, 0.03sec behind Michael Schumacher, also skidded harmlessly off the Estoril track.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Miami 13 Kansas City 6

BOXING

TOKYO: World Boxing Council featherweight championship (12 rnds): Luisito Espinosa (Phil) bt Manuel Medina (Mex, holder) pts

CRICKET

Test match

New Zealand v Pakistan

CHRISTCHURCH (final day): Pakistan beat New Zealand by 161 runs

PAKISTAN: 208 (Aamir Sohail 88, Ramiz Raja 54, C L Cairns 4-51) and 434 (Ijaz Ahmed 103, Inzamam-ul-Haq 82, Raja 62)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 286 (C L Cairns 76, R G Twose 59, Wasim Akram 5-53)

Second Innings

B A Young c Latif b Mushtaq	18
C J Spearman c Sohail b Mushtaq	33
A C Parore lbw b Mushtaq	5
S P Fleming lbw b Rehman	0
R G Twose not out	51
C L Cairns c Malik b Mushtaq	8
*†L K Germon run out	12
D N Patel b Mushtaq	15
G R Larsen c Sohail b Mushtaq	13
D J Nash b Younis	22
D K Morrison c Malik b Mushtaq	1
Extras (lb 7, w 1, nb 4, b 3)	15
Total	195

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-50, 2-57, 3-80, 4-80, 5-75, 6-101, 7-131, 8-163, 9-192.

BOWLING: Akram 11-3-31-0, Younis 26-6-73-1, Mushtaq 34.4-13-56-7, Rehman 9-1-23-1.

Umpires: S Dunne (New Zealand) and B C Cooray (Sri Lanka).

HYDERABAD: Women's International match (third day of four): India 184 (S Shaw 66, C Taylor 4-38) and 216 (C Kanta Ahir 67), England 98 and 38-1.

WOLLONGONG, Australia: Tour match (one day): West Indians 82, Australian Cricket Academy 96-2.

CASTLE CUP (final day of four): Bloemfontein: Free State 532-7 and 113-2; Natal 187 and 474 (E Stewart 131, M Marshall 99 not out, D Crookes 63, K Venter 4-82, N Boje 4-127). Free State won by 8 wkts. East London: Border 173 and 306 (P Kirsten 104, D Cullinan 56, S Tikolo 55, P Adams 5-128, A Dawson 4-25). Western Province 500-5. Western Province won by an innings and 21 runs.

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bl	Pts
Natal	5	4	1	0	14	13	67
Transvaal	4	3	1	0	16	16	62
W Province	4	3	1	0	12	14	56
Free State	4	2	0	2	15	16	51
E Province	5	0	2	3	11	13	24
Border	4	1	3	0	4	9	23
N Transvaal	4	0	3	1	10	8	18
Boland	4	0	2	2	6	9	15

CURLING

GRINDELWALD, Switzerland: European championships: Men: Second round: Group A1: Scotland 6 Holland 4; Germany 7 Finland 5; Norway 6 Austria 1. Group A2: Denmark 6 England 4, Switzerland 7 Wales 6, Italy 9 Sweden 6. Third round: Group A1: Norway 11 Scotland 4; Germany 13 Austria 1, Finland 8 Holland 2. Group A2: Switzerland 4 Sweden 2, England 7 Italy 3, Wales 7 Denmark 8. Group B: Bulgaria 9 Czech Republic 6; Russia 9 Hungary 7, Belgium 7 France 5; Women: Second round: Group A1: Sweden 14 Austria 4, Denmark 10 Czech Republic 5, Switzerland 12 Luxembourg 4. Group A2: Scotland 6 Finland 5; Germany 12 France 3; Norway 12 England 3. Third round: Group B: Russia 13 Holland 5; Bulgaria 7 Italy 6.

FOOTBALL

Monday's late results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Everton 3 West Ham United 0.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Dagenham and Redbridge 1 Stevenage 2

UNIBOND LEAGUE: League cup: Third round: Hyde 5 Marine 3. Postponed: Guisley v Boston.

ICIS LEAGUE: Carlton Trophy: Second round: Tring 1 Tilbury 5.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol Rovers 1 Norwich 2; Chelsea 0 Luton 0; Millwall 1 Ipswich 1. Postponed: Swindon v Charlton; Tottenham v Brighton.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham 1 Sheffield Wed 1; Sheffield Utd 0 Blackburn Rovers 3. Postponed: Manchester Utd v Oldham. Second division: Bradford 1 Port Vale 5; Preston 3 Mansfield 1. Postponed: Leicester v Blackpool.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Taunton 3 Bridport 0. Postponed: Backwell v Elmore.

SOUTHERN JUNIOR FLOODLIT CUP: Third round: Oxford 4 Portsmouth 0.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: South West Regional Cup: Hampshire 6 Wiltshire 2. Full Film Trophy: Fourth round: East Berks 2 Swindon 2; Slough 0 Hackney 4. Bolton: Independent Schools 6a-a-Side Cup: Final: Hampton GS 2 Wolverhampton GS 1. Plate: Brentwood 2 Lancing 1 (aet).

FREESTYLE SKIING

TIGNES: World Cup: Parallel moguls: Men: 1, F Bertrand (Fr); 2, S Rochon (Can); 3, A Jonell (Swiz). Women: 1, L Dymchenko (Russ); 2, T Mittermayer (Ger), 3, C Gilg (Fr).

GOLF

SONY WORLD RANKINGS: 1, G Norman (Aus) 21.93pts, 2, N Price (Zim) 16.34, 3, B Langer (Ger) 15.54, 4, E Els (SA) 14.68; 5, C Montgomerie (GB) 14.00, 6, N Faldo (GB) 13.94, 7, C Pavin (US) 13.47, 8, F Couples (US) 11.02, 9, M Ozaldal (Sp) 9.26, 13, S Ebkington (Aus) 10.43; 11, T Lehman (US) 9.69, 12, J M Olazábal (Sp) 9.26, 13, S Torrance (GB) 8.32; 14, L Janzen (US) 8.27; 15, V Singh (Fij) 8.12; 16, L Roberts (US) 8.08, 17, D Love (US) 7.73, 18, P Jacobsen (US) 7.53, 19, M McCumber (US) 7.39, 20, B Crenshaw (US) 7.26. Other Britons: 38, I Woosnam 5.55, 53, M James 4.83, 54, D Gilford 4.82; 55, B Lane 4.48, 72, H Clark 3.72; 85, D Clarke 3.40; 100, P Baker 2.73

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Florida 2 New Jersey 1, NY Rangers 3 Dallas 2; Colorado 5 Toronto 1, Tampa Bay 6 Buffalo 1, Calgary 6 Los Angeles 2

RUGBY UNION

University match

Oxford 19 Cambridge 21

Oxford University: Try: Humphreys. Con: Humphreys. Pens: Humphreys 3. Dropped goal: Humphreys. Cambridge University: Tries: Evans, penalty try: Con: Ashforth. Pens: Ashforth 3.

(at Twickenham)

Under-21 match

Oxford Univ 13 Cambridge Univ 3

Oxford University: Try: West. Con: Ure. Pens: Ure 2. Cambridge University: Pen: Lippiett.

(at Stoop Memorial Ground)

CLUB MATCH: Cancelled: Pontypool v Ebbw Vale.

SQUASH

BOMBAY: Mahindra Challenge tournament: Final: P Nicol (Scot) bt C Walker (Eng) 15-8, 15-11, 15-10

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Women: First division: Reebok Liverpool City 0 Britannia Music City 3; Loughborough 3 Wessex 0; London Mallory 3 Birmingham 0; Sheffield Wed 0 Man Utd Salford 3, KLEA Leeds 3 Orpington 1, Man Utd Salford 3 Ashcombe Guildford Spectrum 1

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

European championship
Play-off match
Ireland v Holland (at Anfield, 8.0) .....

Anglo-Italian Cup
Group A
Birmingham v Cesena .....
Genoa v Oldham .....
Luton v Ancona .....
Perugia v Port Vale .....

Group B
Brescia v West Bromwich .....
Ipswich v Salernitana .....
Reggiana v Stoke .....
Southend v Foggia .....

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Aberdeen v Kilmarnock .....

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Newport AFC v Atherstone (7.45). Southern division: Fareham v Poole.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Harrow v Purfleet (7.45). Carlton Cup: Second round: Bognor Regis v Worthing.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington Stanley v Barrow.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Wimbledon v Southampton (2.0). Second division: Swansea v Cheltenham.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE (7.0): First division: Bolton Wanderers v Notts County; Leeds United v Liverpool; Nottingham Forest v Tranmere Rovers. Second division: Hull City v Burnley, Middlesbrough v Grimsby Town (at Hartlepool); Sunderland v Huddersfield Town; York City v Barnsley.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Briton Ferry v Afan Lido.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Consett v Eppleton CW; Seaham Red Star v Durham.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Ettingshall Heath v Lye Town.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE CUP: Second round: Sudbury v Halstead.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Downton v Christchurch.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Cup: Third round: Bingp v Pickering; Harrogate Rangers v North Ferriby; Stocksbridge PS v Hall Road Rangers; Hallam/Selby v Ossett Albion.

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round replay: Norwich v Peterborough.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Fourth round: Brierley Hill v Wirral (The Dell). FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy: Essex v Kent (1.30); Inner London v Surrey (1.30); Norfolk v Suffolk (Norwich, 1.0); Middlesex v Sussex (Greenford, 1.30); Warwickshire v Shropshire (Racing Club Warwick); West Midlands v Worcestershire (Alexandra Stadium). Under-16: Greater Manchester v Lancashire; Midland Counties under-15: Staffordshire v Shropshire. Hobbs Cup: Watford v East Berks (Woodside Stadium). Paul Murray Memorial Shield: Stoke v Liverpool (Northwood Stadium, 7.0).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Heineken Cup
Pool B
Ulster v Bègles-Bordeaux
(at Belfast, 7.0) .....

CIS under-21 county championship
Midlands final
East Midlands v North Midlands
(at Northampton)

Representative match
Army v New Zealand Army
(at Aldershot, 7.0) .....

SRU UNDER-21 INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Glasgow District v Scottish Exiles, South of Scotland v North and Mid Scotland (6.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 7.30

Stones Championship
St Helens v Oldham .....
Wigan v Halifax .....

First division
Batley v Widnes .....
Rochdale v Wakefield .....

Second division
Barrow v Hunslet .....
Chorley v Swinton .....
Highfield v Hull K R .....
Leigh v Doncaster .....
York v Bramley .....

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Thames Valley v Leopards (8.0).

ICE HOCKEY: Olympic qualifier: Great Britain v Denmark (Milton Keynes).

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The hand today hand is on the theme of helping your partner to do the right thing. It came up in the 1995 Malta Festival pairs.

Dealer South Love all Match-pointed pairs

	♠7 ♥Q8643 ♦K97 ♣AK84	
♠AJ93 ♥K1052 ♦Q42 ♣J5	N W E S	♠1064 ♥AJ9 ♦J83 ♣Q1093
	♠KQ852 ♥7 ♦A1065 ♣752	

S	W	N	E
Pass	Pass	1 H	Pass
1 NT (!)	Pass	Pass	Pass

Contract: 1 NT by South Lead: Three of Spades

I was West. In North-South's system, the 1 NT response showed spades, not that I realised it at the time (it was not "alerted" by North). Lucky in a way because my spade lead worked out well. East played the ten and declarer won with the king. The declarer continued with a club to the ace and a low diamond to the ten and my queen. How should I continue?

It seemed likely that, as the declarer had not played hearts, my partner might have strength there, so I switched to the two of hearts: three, jack, seven. East returned the six of spades to the eight and nine. What should I do now? To cater for my partner holding the ace-nine of hearts, I continued with the ten of hearts. Notice that, if I had played a low heart, my partner would have been in a dilemma as to whether to put up the ace — after all, the declarer's holding might have been ten-doubleton. If my partner's initial heart holding was ace-jack alone, we were never going to take more than three heart tricks.

The declarer played low on the ten of hearts. East won the third round of hearts and returned his last spade. So we made three spade tricks, four hearts and a diamond to take the contract two off.

☐ The 1996 Malta Bridge Festival is from February 24 to March 1. Details from *International Popular Bridge Monthly* (tel: 0115-942 2615).

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Spanish torture

The Ruy Lopez opening has enjoyed a high degree of popularity with top grandmasters for more than 100 years. It has been a favourite of Steinitz, Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine and Fischer. The reputation of the Lopez, often described as "The Spanish Torture", was actually increased by Kasparov's use of it against Anand in their recent world title contest.

A particular exponent of the Lopez in contemporary chess is Alexei Shirov, the young Latvian grandmaster. In this game, against Peter Leko, the Hungarian prodigy, Shirov uses the Lopez first to throttle his opponent and then finish off with a neat tactical solution leading to unstoppable armadas of pawns.

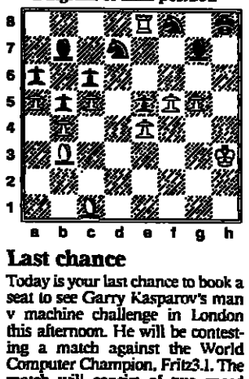
White: Alexei Shirov
Black: Peter Leko
European team championship
Budapest v Berlin, December 1995

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6
4	Ba4	Nf6
5	0-0	Be7
6	Re1	b5
7	Bb3	d6
8	c3	0-0
9	h3	Nb8
10	d4	Nbd7
11	Nbd2	Bb7
12	Bc2	Re8
13	a4	Bf8
14	b4	Nb6
15	a5	Nbd7
16	Bb2	Rb8
17	Rb1	h6
18	Ba1	Ba8
19	Re3	g6
20	Qe2	c6
21	c4	Bg7
22	dxe5	dxe5
23	c5	Nh5
24	g3	Qc7
25	Rd3	Rbd8
26	Rd1	Nf8
27	Nf1	Rxd3
28	Qxd3	Nf6
29	Ne3	Bb7
30	Kg2	Qb8
31	Bb2	Qc7
32	Bb3	Re7
33	Qd8	Qxd8
34	Rxd8	N6d7
35	Nh4	Kh7
36	Nhf5	gxf5
37	Nxf5	Bf8
38	Nxe7	Bxe7
39	Re8	Bg5
40	Bd7	Kg7
41	Bb3	Bf6
42	f4	Ng6
43	f5	Ngf8
44	h4	Kh7
45	Kh3	Kg7
46	g4	Kh7
47	Bc1	Bg7
48	g5	hxg5
49	hxg5	Kh8

Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Last chance

Today is your last chance to book a seat to see Garry Kasparov's man v machine challenge in London this afternoon. He will be contesting a match against the World Computer Champion, Fritz3.1. The match will consist of two speed games, lasting 50 minutes each, and will commence at 3pm. The venue will be the Conference Forum, Sedgwick Centre, London. E1. To apply for tickets ring 0171-388 2404.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AFIKOMAN
a. A Bedu bushman
b. The final morsel
c. The tropical azalea

CORNELY
a. Made of cornel wood
b. Disobliging
c. A mechanical embroiderer

CORNADA
a. A horn wound
b. A coronation dance
c. A right-angled turn at skiing

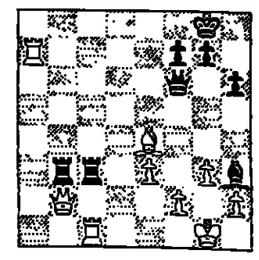
FINNIP
a. The American whitebait
b. To bribe or bung
c. Five dollars

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Seirawan — Lobron, Amsterdam, 1983. Black could capture his opponent's queen with 1. . . . Rxb2, but this would be a mistake on account of 2. Ra8+, turning the tables. What is Black's strongest continuation?



Solution on page 46

Thrilling University match settled by late try after refereeing controversy

Oxford penalised by incisive Evans

Oxford University 19
Cambridge University . 21

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT



Earnshaw crashes through the Oxford defence during a pulsating University match at Twickenham yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

THEY do not write scripts for matches like this any more. Whatever the rugby union University match may lack in technique, it more than makes up in colour, spectacle and a defiance of logic that is the lifeblood of sport.

The 114th meeting of Oxford and Cambridge, at Twickenham yesterday, turned on the decision by Tony Spreadbury to award a penalty try as, with three minutes to go, the Dark Blues gathered themselves for a final defensive effort. It was a brave decision by one of England's most experienced officials, perhaps the kind that more of his colleagues must bring themselves to make in the professional era.

In effect, he penalised the amateurs of Oxford for a professional foul, one in a series of technical infringements, and by doing so allowed Cambridge to level the match. "It was a deliberate offside," Spreadbury said.

Understandably, Oxford were unhappy with the decision. "I personally didn't think there was any greater probability of their scoring from that passage of play than from any other," Tyrone Howe, their captain, said.

Yet the decision forced both sides to dig deep into the fund of character that this fixture possesses in abundance. Oxford, who spent an hour in the lead, carried play to the Cambridge 22 and forced their only penalty award of the second half which Humphreys, the commanding genius of their side, kicked.

At 19-16, in added time, Oxford could be forgiven for thinking that the Bowring Bowl had returned to them. Instead, Cambridge, came again. Bramley won the lineout, the ball flickered down the line to Casado, who kicked ahead. Singer swept on to his opposite number, du Preez, and the ball popped free for Ashforth to find Evans on his outside.

The little hooker, from Neath, has been a dynamic force all season and, if he never has another hour of fame, he can relive this one for the rest of his life. The defence expected him to pass to his wing, but Evans sped straight for the line and carried two despairing defenders with him for the try that gave Cambridge their 53rd success in the series.

Even Cottrell, the Cambridge captain, could find sympathy in his heart for Oxford: Howe conjured the best display of the term from his players. For all but the vital last five minutes, the Oxford forwards ruled the loose play, allied to a thunderous defensive display by de Bruyn, the rock on which so many ambitious Cambridge assaults crumbled.

Behind the forwards, Humphreys not only scored, in every conceivable way, all his side's 19 points, but directed events brilliantly. Even when possession was leaking away in the second half, he was coolness itself, and if ever one player deserved to finish on the winning side, he did. Yet the penalty tally tells a story: Cambridge were awarded 12 against Oxford's four, and, if Ashforth had finished the match the way that he began it, there might have been no need for so desperate a finish.

However, the young standoff half's kicking technique held up only so far: two penalty goals in the first half kept Cambridge in touch as Humphreys opened with a dropped goal, added two penalty goals and then danced over from a ruck after immense pressure from Svoboda and Basson. Thereafter, Ashforth blasted wide from all but the closest range.

The day had started badly for Cambridge with the withdrawal of one of their three Blues, Nick Walne, whose damaged ankle let in the term's leading try-scorer, Sexton, for an unexpected honour. It became worse when Maslen was taken off on a stretcher during a five-minute delay, though worries over a neck injury turned out to be no more than a broken nose and concussion. It ended, however, in a blaze of glory.

SCORERS: Oxford: Try: Humphreys. Conversion: Humphreys. Penalty goals: Humphreys (3). Dropped goals: Humphreys. Cambridge: Tries: Evans, penalty try. Conversion: Ashforth. Penalty goals: Ashforth (3).

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: P du Preez (Diocesan College, Cape Town, and Keble); S Rush (Harrow and Mansfield), C de Bruyn (Diocesan College, Cape Town and Keble), J Rliondet (La Lycee Kanet, Paris and Mansfield), T Howe (Banbridge Academy and Keble, captain); D Humphreys (Ballymena Academy and St Cross), M Butler (King Edward VI, Lichfield and St Edmund Hall); C Norton (St Andrew's, Grahamstown and Keble), K Svoboda (Cantonnial Secondary, Belleville and Templeton), D Penney (Mount Pearl HS, Newfoundland and Wolfson), M Reilly (St Gerard's, Bray and St Anne's), N Basson (Diocesan College, Cape Town, and St Cross). P Coveney (Clongowes Wood, Kildare and New College), M Orsler (King's, Canterbury and Christ Church), R Yeabsley (Haberdashers' Aske's and Keble). Rliondet replaced by M Mermagen (St Bartholomew's, Newbury and Keble, 39-43min, 48)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: M Singer (Wycliffe and Homerton); D Casado (Ampleforth and St Edmund's), T Whitford (The Leys and Homerton), S Cottrell (Christ's, Christchurch and St Edmund's, captain), S Sexton (Dublin HS and Hughes Hall), R Ashforth (Bradford GS and Peterhouse), D Maslen (Randcombe and St Edmund's); L Mooney (St Boniface's, Plymouth and Hughes Hall), J Evans (Emmanuel GS, Swansea and Homerton), N Holgate (Armthorpe CS and Robinson), M Hyde (St Ignatius, Sydney and St Edmund's), R Bramley (OEGS Wakefield and St Edmund's), C Simpson-Hills (Hills Road Vith Form College, Cambridge and Homerton), R Earnshaw (Yarm and St John's), S Surridge (St Kentigern, Auckland and Wolfson). Maslen replaced by B Ryan (St Benedict's, Ealing and Homerton, 34).

Referee: A Spreadbury (Somerset).

Defeat proves so hard for Humphreys to bear



JOHN HOPKINS
At Twickenham

For the second successive year, the University match reached a conclusion of such drama that it could not have been bettered in a West End theatre.

Not one of the crowd, approaching 70,000, can have left Twickenham without feeling emotionally spent by the spectacle of a game that provided a Wagnerian crescendo. In the space of five minutes, it swung first this way, then that, and then back again. What happened in the tumultuous closing minutes will be writ large in the annals of the game.

Yet not even these thrilling events — not Cambridge's disputed penalty try, nor Jonathan Evans's remarkable dart for the line for the try that gave Cambridge victory — could obscure a performance of exceptional promise and merit by David Humphreys.

A stand-off caught the eye last year — Cambridge's Matt McCarthy. Humphreys did even better for Oxford this year, scoring all his team's points with a display that can have rarely have been bettered in all the matches between Oxford and Cambridge that have been played on Billy Williams's cabbage patch.

Within minutes of the final whistle, Humphreys was trying to come to terms with the fact that, although he had scored 19 points, they were not enough.

He had played the game of his life, only to have the triumph that he thought was assured for himself and his team-mates snatched away from him in added time.

His contributions were far greater than just kicking his penalty goals, though he had done that, never more impressively than his last of the game, which came in the eightieth minute and gave Oxford the lead once more. He had run with the ball as well, darting and weaving through the defence to score Oxford's only try.

As well as demonstrating two of rugby's individual skills — kicking and running — he had also dropped a goal and shown the tactical nous that stand-offs are meant to display but so rarely do. Even Cambridge men acknowledged that the performance of Humphreys, 24, was such that it was cruel for him not to be on the winning side.

It took all of Humphreys's Irish charm to explain that he had never felt such disappointment. "It is something we have lived and trained for for the past three months," he said quietly. "We have prepared a whole season for this match. To lose it in the last minute is the hardest blow of the lot. I am devastated."

It was no consolation that Lynn Evans, the Oxford coach, described Humphreys's performance as one of the most outstanding he had seen. "He'll be in the Irish side before long, I'm sure," Evans said. "He has that element of self-confidence and self-belief that is so important."

Most of us can cope with victory and Jonathan Evans had a day that he will never forget, because he scored the winning try.

However, spare a thought for Humphreys. Like Evans he, too, had a day that he will remember for the rest of his life but for a different reason. Sport does mirror life, after all.

VH-1 is available on cable and satellite.

Dear Diary,
Broke down in Bradford.
Stuck my thumb out, got
picked up by a bloke called
'David Brabham' who drove
quite fast. At 2.00pm his
in car telly was showing VH-1
and another 'David Brabham'
came on. Spooky. Must be
his twin brother. Stopped at
a Jolly Scoff and got into
a fight with 24 reps in Sierras,
which of course we won. He's
well tasty that Brabham is.

VH-1
Where music means something.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

AFIKOMAN
(b) Near the beginning of the Jewish Passover service, a piece broken from the second of the three cakes of unleavened bread and put aside to be eaten at the end of the meal. Hebrew *aphīqōmān*, from the Greek *epikōmion* a revel. "The afikoman is always the centre of a little ceremony associated with Jewish holidays, the giving of gifts."

CORNELY
(c) An eponym of Émile Cornely, engineer, the first maker of the chain-stitch embroidery machine with universal feed invented by J. Bonnaz: used to designate the machine, machinist or the embroidery made. "Cornely is an embroidery of lacy design made by the Cornely machine on a vanishing cloth which is afterwards removed, leaving the cloth."

CORNADA
(a) A horn-wound, the goring of a bull-fighter by a bull, the Spanish word, the Latin for a horn is *cornu*. Ernest Hemingway, *Death in the Afternoon*, 1932: "In 1928 he was gored severely twice, the second cornada a result of his fighting before he was in good shape after the first."

FINNIP
(c) United States slang for five dollars, also fin(n)if(f), finnup and finuf. Damon Runyon, *Guys & Dolls*, 1931: "He asks me if I happen to have a finnif on me, but of course I am not giving finnifs to guys like Feet Samuels, and finally he offers to compromise with me for a deuce, so I can see things must be very bad with Feet to come down from five dollars to two."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1, ... Qxf2+! wins for Black, eg. 2, Kxf2 Rxb2+ wins material, or 2, Qxf2 Rxc1+ mating.

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SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	20	80	good	varied	fair	sun	-1	10/12
(Enjoyable early-season skiing; icy patches low down)								
AUSTRIA								
Zell Am See	10	50	fair	varied	closed	fine	-4	4/12
(Kaprun glacier with 240cm skiing well; 24 lifts open)								
Kitzbühel	15	50	fair	varied	some	cloud	0	4/12
(Some good skiing on upper slopes; more snow forecast)								
Lech	30	40	fair	varied	worn	cloud	-1	12/12
(Care needed on resort runs otherwise enjoyable)								
St Anton	15	110	fair	varied	worn	snow	-2	12/12
(Light covering of fresh snow improving conditions)								
CANADA								
Lake Louise	95	130	good	powder	open	snow	-8	12/12
(Excellent skiing on fresh powder; resort fully open)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	20	80	fair	varied	some	fine	-4	7/12
(Enjoyable skiing on upper slopes; poor low down)								
La Plagne	10	85	fair	varied	closed	fine	-5	7/12
(Glacier skiing fine; otherwise limited)								
Tignes	15	80	fair	varied	art	fine	-3	8/12
(Good skiing on Grand Motte; icy on run into resort)								
Val d'Isère	5	100	fair	crust	icy	fine	1	7/12
(Le Fornet reasonable though wearing in places)								
ITALY								
Iemme	0	40	fair	varied	closed	fine	2	6/12
(Extensive use of snow cannons aiding conditions)								
SWITZERLAND								
Klosters	10	40	fair	varied	worn	fair	-4	3/12
(Reasonable early-season skiing; icy low down)								
Mürren	15	70	fair	varied	closed	fair	-2	3/12
(Upper slopes enjoyable, more lifts opening at weekend)								
Zermatt	0	80	fair	varied	closed	fine	-5	2/12
(Klein Matterhorn runs good though windy)								
UNITED STATES								
Winter Park	110	130	good	powder	open	fine	-6	10/12
(Excellent December skiing; more snow forecast)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

The ebb and flow of war

Points of Departure. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

Martin Woollacott is reticent about his own role in reporting the reversals in fortune of the Kurds in northern Iraq after the defeat of Saddam Hussein. He lets other reporters take up the story in close-up, while he widens his focus. He recalls the euphoria the Kurds felt in 1991 after Saddam's garrisons were blown away "like dandelion fluff on the wind". "It was a dream come true," said the Kurds. "This is poetry!" Then Saddam's bombers and tanks moved in against the celebrating Kurds and, thanks largely to press coverage of the savagery, the West launched the safe haven operation. It was "almost a miracle", says Woollacott, a winner of a James Cameron Memorial Prize for journalism.

Evening Concert. *Classic FM, 8.00pm.*

Classic FM has got in first with this year's broadcasts of Handel's *Messiah*, without which Christmas simply would not be Christmas. Even if you do not attach any religious significance to the season, you probably will not get a more satisfying choral experience than by tuning in to this live transmission from Manchester Cathedral. The proceeds go to Crisis, the charity that helps the single homeless. There is a helpline: 0500 109999. Stephen Threlfall conducts the choral groups and the Northern Chamber Orchestra Sinfonia, and the soloists are Jane Highfield, Diana Palmerston, Vanessa Williams, Stuart Beer and Martin Bussey.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa I'Anson, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, incl at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat; and at 6.15 The Net 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Lee and Herring 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Wendy Lloyd, including at 12.15am The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Jim Lloyd, with Folk on 2 8.00 Over the Water. Mary Black presents Irish music (1/4) 8.30 Mrs Ackroyd Explores Her Roots (1/6) 9.00 Macgregor's Horizons (5/7) 9.30 Nigel Ogden 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine, incl at 10.35 Euronews; and at 11.00 News; Natural History 12.00 Midday with Mair, incl at 12.34pm Moneycheck; and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Trevor Brooking's Football Night. Republic of Ireland v Holland at Anfield 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, incl at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Raeburn 4.00 Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner 7.00 Sean Bolger 8.00 Moz Dee 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 World News 7.15 *Middlemarch* 7.30 Discovery 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Drama: *The Wizard of Oz* 8.45 The High-C Hero 9.00 News in German 9.15 Andy Kershaw 9.45 Sport 10.00 Newsdesk 10.38 BBC English 10.45 *Middlemarch* 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Meridian 12.00 News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain 12.30 Composer of the Month 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Megamix 3.00 News in German 3.15 Greenfield Collection 4.00 News 4.15 World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe 5.30 Business 5.45 Sports 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 News in German 7.00 News 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Faith 7.30 Multitrack 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 Business 9.15 Britain 9.30 Ports of Call 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.16 Pop Short 11.15 Sport 11.45 From Our Own Correspondent Midnight News 12.30am The High-C Hero 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 New Ideas 1.30 Portrait of the Artist 1.45 Country Style 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Sport 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Assignment 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata. Brahms 7.00 Gardening Forum (r) 8.00 Evening Concert, in aid of Crisis. See Choice 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.30 Paul Coyte 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Wagner (Prelude and Liebestod, Tristan und Isolde); Brahms (String Quartet No 3 in B flat); Rigatti (Magnificat); Mozart (Symphony No 32 in G); Schubert (Die Taubenpost; Wiegenlied); Arnold (Overture, Commonwealth Christmas)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. C.P.E. Bach (Symphony in E); Strauss (Horn Concerto No 1 in E flat); Beethoven (Violin Sonata in G); Stenhammar (Midwinter)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Byrd (Attollite Principes a 6); 10.05 Purcell (Suite No 6 in D); Walton (Jubilate Deo); Anthony Milner (Oboe Concerto); Bach (O Lamm Gottes, unschüldig); Holst (The Morning of the Year); Chopin (Impromptu in F sharp); 11.30 Howells (Take him earth for cherishing); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 14 in E flat)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Copland (El Salon Mexico; The Young Pioneers; Threshing Machines, Of Mice and Men; Las Agachadas; Appalachian Spring)
1.00pm Katarina Karneus, mezzo, Iain Burnside, piano, perform Brahms (Eight Gypsy Songs); Wolf (In dem Schatten meiner Locken; Alle gingen, Herz, zur ruh; Dereinst, dereinst, Gedanke mein; Sie blasen zum Abmarsch; Geh', Geliebter, geh' jetzt!, Spanish Songbook); Weir (Songs from the Exotic); Falla (Trois Mélodies, to poems by Gauber) (r)
2.00 Fairest Isle: Britten's Radio Music. Paul Hindmarsh introduces *The Company of Heaven*, the first of two surviving radio anthologies for which Benjamin Britten composed the music in 1937
3.00 Midweek Choice. Susan Sharpe introduces Radio 3's *Limerick Choice* competition, including Prince Albert (Melody for the violin); Dvořák (Prague Waltzes); Beethoven (An die ferne Geliebte)
4.00 Choral Evensong, live from Worcester Cathedral
5.00 The Music Machine in Chicago. A visit to the Old Town School
5.15 In Tune, with Andrew Green
6.00 BBC Rush Hour Concert, live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Sally Burgess, mezzo, Philip Thomas and Neal Thornton, pianos, perform Chabrier (L'Ile heureuse; Romance, L'Etoile; España); Debussy (Chansons de Bilitis); Canteloube (Songs of the Auvergne, excerpts); a selection of jazz standards
7.00 In Tune. Chopin (Nocturne in E flat)
7.30 Pebble Mill, with the jazz pianist Julian Joseph
9.00 Cinema 100: Lumière's Children. The advent of talking pictures
9.25 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Philharmonic under Edward Downes, performs Glière (Suite, The Bronze Horseman; Horn Concerto in B flat: Richard Watkins)
10.45 Night Waves. Richard Coles reviews a revival of Stephen Sondheim's *Company*
11.30-12.30am Voices. Francis George Scott

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing, incl 6.03 Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek
10.00-10.30 News; A Good Read (FM only)
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time from the Blacon Gardeners' Club, Cheshire (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Chris Choi
12.25pm Monsieur Pamplemousse Investigates. A comedy by Michael Bond (2/3) 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Thriller Playhouse: Conquest Marches On, by Guy Fithen, adapted by Berkeley Grey, continues the series of thrillers from the 1930s. Christopher Cazenove stars as Norman Conquest, otherwise known as the Gay Desperado. With Bonnie Langford as Pixie
2.45 Treasure Islands. Michael Rosen presents the first part of this year's *Treasure Islands* quiz from the Edinburgh Festival
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Daire Brehan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope reviews the film Babe
4.45 Short Story: Masquerade, by Roy Heath. Read by Burt Caesar
5.00 PM 5.45 Party Political Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats 5.50 Shipping 5.55 Weather
6.00 News 6.30 Kit and the Widow's Sound of Music
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Points of Departure. See Choice
7.45 Out of Africa. The Caribbean writer Merle Collins travels from Ghana to Grenada
8.30 The Spirit of America. Caryl Phillips explores six key moments in American history with six prominent African Americans. In the third programme, Ron Brown, the US Secretary of Commerce, assesses the legacy of President Roosevelt, whose New Deal steered America through the Depression years of the 1930s
9.00 Costing the Earth, with Mark Whittaker
9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Go-Between, by L.P. Hartley. Read by John Rowe (3/10)
11.00 Trust. Satire about NHS Trusts (3/6)
11.30-12.00 Beachcomber . . . by the Way (FM only). Last in the series (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
12.00 News, incl 12.27am Weather
12.30 The Late Book: Sucking Sherbert Lemons. David Holt reads Michael Carson's novel (6/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

هكذا من الأصل

The Proust of the pudding is in the eating

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

Ah, I remember La Belle Epoque. Every time I have a custard cream, and melt it in some stewed Ty-Phoo, so that the biscuit falls off and the creamy stuff swirls sweetly on the surface like an oil slick, the whole torrid, decadent era comes back. Women were dressed up like millefeuilles in those days. And then I think — *Ring, ring.* Excuse me. Hello? *Male voice shouts "Get on with it".* Oh, right. Sorry.

Marcel Proust's famously evocative madeleine was nothing like a custard cream, of course, but in last night's **Without Walls** (Channel 4), we learnt that it was in fact a kind of fairy cake — a dull sponge, and nothing to write home about, except that the base is shaped like a scallop shell, which may have explicit womb-connotations (don't ask). All my life I have assumed that Proust's madeleine involved coconut and a spot of raspberry jam: you can imagine the depth of my disappointment. Anyway, those reliable, glamorous food experts from previous weeks were set down in gorgeous, well-lit studio settings again, with heaps of fruit, to explain about Proust's dedication to the artistry of food. And words such as "exquisite" and "precious" and "essence" filled the air like baking.

Joining them this week was Jonathan Burnham of Random House, who happens to be the most handsome young man in British publishing, so his presence was a treat. Besides which, in Proustian terms, he clearly knew his onions. But I wondered whether his on-screen description "Editor, *Remembrance of Things Past*" might confuse younger viewers with a poor grasp of chronology; they may have assumed he had a personal relationship with the author, along the lines of: *Ring, ring.* "Allo?" "Get on with it."

So it was all gorgeous, and the art historians pointed out things we had not noticed, such as the absence of food on French Impressionist dinner tables. In that age of luxury and excess, a meal meant sitting in a fab restaurant with wine glasses and your best hat; or lolling on the grass with a naked woman. As I said last week, this *Unpeeled* series has been proper cultural history. I'm just a bit unconvinced about the sexual symbolism of the scallop shell. Do the oil companies know about this?

In prospect, a *Network First* documentary on cross-dressing sounded unpromising. But the gods were kind, and this was no wearisome drag queen extravaganza of the Carlton kind — the entertainment equivalent of suffocating in a plastic carrier bag with a noose round your neck. In fact last night's **Guys as Dolls** (ITV) was a fine treatment of married men in frocks, told without a narrator, and with sensitive, plinky music behind the gentle confessions. Forget Lily Savage; these were quiet men uninterested in dressing for the cabaret. No, indeed. Perhaps subliminally influenced by too many Shell Oil commercials, they wanted to dress exactly like their mums.

What emerged in Derek Jones's film (made by Yorkshire TV) was an astonishing story, not of marriages dashed by the wife's discovery of large unfamiliar lingerie in the washing machine, but of relationships healed and transmuted by love, understanding and a mutual fondness for No 7. Apparently, when wives discover that their husbands dress as women, they think, "Great! We can go shopping!" They stand beside their men at the wardrobe, saying, "Wear the pink one with ruffles". Two of the featured wives were unequivocal: they preferred their husband in his feminine form. They smirked unattractively at the camera, as if to say "I bet you haven't got what I've got". "I like Stephanie," said Pat. "She's calmer than Stan."

Of course the camera lingered on male faces painted with lipstick, the head shaved for the wig, the muscly legs in fancy hosiery. *Guys as Dolls* left it rather late to address the important distinction between transvestism and transsexuality — the latter being rather harder for a wife to take. But the love between Nohmi and Joanne (formerly John) could absorb anything, apparently — even a sex change. They sat together like twin sisters in their big hair and big glasses. They had never considered their marriage a bit crowded. Shame on the Princess of Wales.

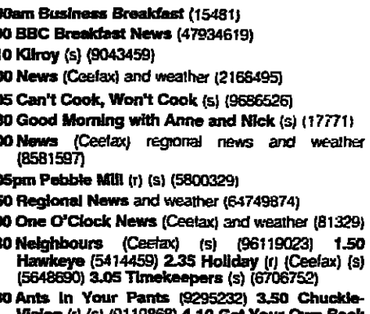
Robson Green made his last appearance in **Soldier, Soldier** last night (ITV), and a nation said "Aaah," as he finally turned away from Donna (Rosie Rowell) with a brave smile and his arm in a sling. We had been tricked into watching this episode by the knowledge that it was Tucker's swan song, and that somebody was to be killed off. The somebody was not Tucker. Oh well. So long.

Meanwhile, BBC1 gave us **Gambling for Gorillas**, the story of John Aspinall's project to return zoo-raised gorillas to the forests of the Congo. Famously, Aspinall espouses a "going in" policy where wild animals are concerned. He takes his grandchildren into the gorilla enclosure ("We're going in!"), in much the same peculiar way that the happy cross-dressing couples in *Guys as Dolls* took their children shopping at market stalls for Daddy's bras and panties.

In the course of the year covered by the film, a tiger at Aspinall's zoo killed a keeper, and Aspinall's gorilla man collapsed under the strain, yet this visionary stands by his principles. Choosing his analogy rather carelessly, he said that his determination to "go in" could be likened to the First World War — yes, there was a price to pay, but despite casualties, he would carry on. It sounded rational, but then so did General Haig. "Despite casualties"? Aspinall's troops, watching at home, must have been greatly encouraged.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (15481)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (47934619)
9.10 Kilroy (s) (9043459)
10.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (2168495)
10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (9686526)
10.30 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (17771)
12.00 News (Ceefax) regional news and weather (8581597)
12.05pm Pebble Mill (r) (s) (5800329)
12.50 Regional News and weather (64749874)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (81329)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (96119023) **1.50 Hawkeye** (5414459) **2.35 Holiday** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5648690) **3.05 Timekeepers** (s) (6706752)
3.30 Ants in Your Pants (9295232) **3.50 Chuckle-Vision** (r) (s) (9119868) **4.10 Get Your Own Back** (Ceefax) (s) (1917058) **4.35 The Queen's Nose** (Ceefax) (s) (1288787)
5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (3549394)
5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (8907023)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (878597) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 5.35** Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (416)
6.30 Regional News magazines (868) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 6.30** Neighbours **6.57** Inside Ulster News
7.00 This Is Your Life (Ceefax) (s) (8503)
7.30 Here and Now. Sue Lawley and the team investigate Britain's antiquated quarantine laws. (Ceefax) (s) (752)
8.00 Sportsnight. Republic of Ireland v Holland The European Championship qualifying play off introduced by Des Lynam live on BBC1 and moving to BBC2 at **9.00** (9990)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) (3526)



Jill Dando and Nick Ross (9.30pm)

9.30 Crimewatch UK. Nick Ross and Jill Dando team up with police forces to try to solve crimes with the help of viewers. The programme asks for help in solving a series of sex attacks which have taken place in Aberdeen between December 1994 and September this year. Also police forces in Dyfed-Powys and West Mercia want help linking two attacks in which the victims were held hostage and subjected to physical abuse. (Ceefax) (s) (657226)
10.15 Inside Story. Noisy Patrol. Insight into the work of Westminster City Council's Noise Patrol. When tempers are frayed because of noisy neighbours, all-night parties or ringing burglar alarms, the Noise Patrol has the task of diffusing the situation and soothing shattered nerves (r) (Ceefax) (s) (245665)
11.05 Crimewatch UK Update (Ceefax) (s) (680139)
11.15 FILM: Surviving (1985) with Ellen Burstyn, Len Cariou and Zach Galligan. A harrowing drama about a suicide pact made by a teenage couple and the profound effect it has on their families. Directed by Waris Hussein (50409313)
1.35am Weather (2149172) **NORTHERN IRELAND: 1.35am-1.40** Inside Ulster News **WALES: 1.35** News headlines and weather (2149172)

BBC2

6.00am Technology Season: Great Egg Race (49936) **6.30** Great Experiments (62706)
7.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (9168232) **7.15 Lassie** (2877348) **7.40 Albert the 5th Musketeer** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7782690) **8.05 It'll Never Work** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (2087665) **8.35 The Record** (s) (7410771) **9.00 At the Risk of Our Lives** (r) (3297752) **9.50 Prue Leith** (3078684) **10.00 Playdays** (s) (3997357)
10.25 FILM: Melody Cruise (1933, b/w) Musical comedy directed by Mark Sandrich (8724706)
11.40 The Fugitive (b/w) (4555787) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (46685) **1.00 Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams** (48915058) **1.15 Movie Magic** (r) (44402955) **1.40 Even More of Glynn Christian's Entertaining Microwave** (s) (15562787) **1.55 Understanding Cats** (15472110) **2.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)** (9646936) **3.00 News** (Ceefax) **Westminster with Nick Ross** (2754313)
3.55 News (Ceefax) (9586955)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (481) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (665) **5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (Ceefax) (s) (5280684) **5.40 Still in Business** (r) (124313) **5.55 Turning Points** (601955)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (Ceefax) (s) (774139)
6.45 FILM: The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms (1953, b/w) with Paul Christian and Lee Van Cleef. Heat generated by an atomic bomb test thaws out a prehistoric rhedosaurus which causes havoc in New York. Directed by Eugene Lourie (5635481)
8.00 CHOICE **Slice of Life. Bhajis in Britain** (Ceefax) (9665)
8.30 University Challenge (Ceelax) (s) (1400)
9.00 Sportsnight. Republic of Ireland v Holland (839752)



Shopping at John Lewis (9.50pm)

9.50 CHOICE **Modern Times: The Partners** (Ceefax) (s) (737416)
10.40 Newsnight (Ceelax) (945313)
11.25 Human Rights, Human Wrongs (s) (764145)
11.35 The Car's the Star. The universal appeal of the Fiat 500 (933868)
11.55 Weatherview (354077) **12.00 The Midnight Hour with Andrew Neil** (s) (59795)
12.30am The Learning Zone: Open University — Flight Simulators and Robots (23882) **1.00** Designer Rides (16199) **1.30** Deadly Quarrels (44004) **2.00 Nightschool TV:** Teaching Today (67511) **4.00 BBC Focus:** Benefits Agency Today (21094849) **4.15** TV Training — Non-Linear Editing (48795) **4.45** Disability Today (79230714) **5.00-6.00** Voluntary Sector Television (78627)

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CHOICE

Modern Times: The Partners
BBC2, 9.50pm

For the first time, the cameras penetrate the world of the John Lewis stores group, where every employee, from the chairman to the cleaner, is a partner. This brave experiment in acceptable capitalism was launched in 1928 by John Spedan Lewis. Deciding that the bosses had been too greedy, he decided to hand the business over to the workers. In theory the partnership still flourishes. The employees elect councils and committees and are encouraged to be critical. Many are happy with a paternalistic system that helps them through personal difficulties and rarely sacks anybody. But Daniel Reed's quietly revealing film also picks up mutterings about low pay and cynicism about how far democracy really goes.

Slice of Life: Bhajis in Britain
BBC2, 8.00pm

The story of Britons and their favourite food has now moved far from suet pudding and jam roly-poly. The taste of curry first reached our islands in the 1930s but Indian restaurants are essentially a postwar phenomenon. They arose as a by-product of mass immigration from Asia. To start with, the cuisine was tailored to European palates. The mouth-scorching vindaloo, which presented a macho challenge to the lager generation, came later. By the early 1970s Delia Smith was telling us to cook Indian at home and for those too lazy or incompetent to do this there emerged the takeaway and the instant supermarket meal. Not for the first time in this entertaining series, the dining table is a microcosm of wider social history.

The Betrayed
Channel 4, 11.00pm

Since Clive Gordon's disquieting documentary about Chechenia was first shown in the summer its quality has been recognised by the award of the Prix Italia. As he demonstrated in an earlier film from Bosnia, Gordon has a knack of digging out human tragedies that often go unrecorded in day-to-day news coverage. He was in Chechenia as a group of Russian mothers arrived to demand news of their sons, reportedly killed in a massacre. Their attempts to discover the truth are stalled by a devious liaison officer. The Chechens, meanwhile, accuse Russian soldiers of atrocities against woman and children. Gordon's film reveals a tale of horror and duplicity, backed by graphic images and a soundtrack of Russian pop music.



Barry Wallman as Judge Schreber (C4, 1.10am)

The Shooting Gallery
Channel 4, 1.10am

Insomniacs and shift-workers apart, it may take a very dedicated audience to stay up into the small hours to catch the weekly pick of recent short films. But there is talented work here and many of those involved have already moved on to bigger things, or are likely to do so. Tonight's selection kicks off with *The Holy Time*, which was made at the Royal College of Art by producer Tony Emsley and writer/director Ben Hopkins. It is a study of Paul Schreber, a 19th-century German judge who was plagued by attacks of insanity and spent his last years in an asylum. Computer and model animation are effectively combined with live action sequences to illuminate his troubled mind and his visions of God and Hell. **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (8549868)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (8627868)
9.55 London Today (Teletext) (2630446)
10.00 The Time . . . The Place (s) (2569435)
10.35 This Morning (28596961)
12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (9570481)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) (2418619)
12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (2313110)
1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (44562145)
1.55 Shortland Street (96210706)
2.20 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (18168787)
2.50 Material World. Kitty prepares for surgery when she discovers a lump on her breast (5566042)
3.20 ITN News headlines (8124329)
3.25 London Today (Teletext) (8043400) **3.30 Alphabet Castle** (s) (3852416) **3.40 Wizadora** (s) (6957597) **3.50 Old Bear Stories** (r) (s) (3856232) **4.05 Animaniacs** (r) (Teletext) (s) (8264058) **4.15 TIGS** (s) (370874) **4.45 Bad Influence** (s) (1106139)
5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating (Teletext) (2425400)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (128139) **5.55 Your Shout** (698481)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (684)
6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (936)
7.00 Wheel of Fortune. Game show in which the spin of the wheel could net a fortune for one of the three contestants. With Nicky Campbell and Jenny Powell (s) (9941)
7.30 Coronation Street. Tensions are running high as Liz struggles to keep her emotions under control (Teletext) (348)
8.00 NEW **Des O'Connor Tonight.** The singer is joined by Rory Bremner, Robson and Jerome and Bette Midler (s) (2058)



Annette Bening, Warren Beatty (9.00pm)

9.00 FILM: Bugsy (1991). Crime drama starring Warren Beatty as the gangster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel. With Annette Bening. Directed by Barry Levinson. **Continues after the News** (Teletext) (s) (9394)
10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (25684)
10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (695936)
10.40 FILM: Bugsy (continues and concludes) (3810961)
12.10am Tales from the Crypt: This'll Kill Ya. A pair of researchers decide to teach their unscrupulous supervisor a lesson by injecting him with a harmless substance he thinks will kill him. They soon learn that he cannot take a joke (3969627)
12.40 The Little Picture Show. Reviews of latest video releases, including *Before Sunrise* and *Six Degrees of Separation* (1909424)
1.45 The Album Show (s) (8276266)
2.40 Hollywood Report (s) (4029191)
3.05 America's Top Ten (r) (s) (95870608)
3.35 The Forum Presents Dizzy Gillespie (r) (57651288)
3.45 Sport AM with Bob Symonds (r) (9345795)
4.35 McGilloway's Way: The Shark Hunt (54807066)
5.00 Vanessa (r) (Teletext) (s) (60066)
5.30 ITN Morning News (87578). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.30am Ulysses 31 Cartoon series (r) (57874)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (91752)
9.00 FILM: Happy Landing (1938, b/w) Sonja Henie is an innocent Norwegian girl who follows an American bandleader to New York. Directed by Roy Del Ruth (26815771)
10.55 Home Fires (r) (Teletext) (5489077)
12.00 House To House Political magazine (22597)
12.30pm Sesame Street (62856) **1.30 Lift Off** (r) (s) (36232) **2.00 The Characters** (76764955)
2.05 FILM: Lena: My 100 Children (1987). Fact-inspired story of a Polish Jewess who posed as a Catholic to survive the Holocaust and ended up caring for Jewish war orphans. Starring Lenore Harris. Directed by Edwin Sherin. (Teletext) (559684) **4.00 Think Tank** (Teletext) (s) (357)
4.30 Fifteen To One (Teletext) (s) (961)
5.00 Ricki Lake. Blacks discuss blacks (Teletext) (s) (7196348) **5.45 Terrytoons** (118752)
6.00 The Crystal Maze (Teletext) (r) (s) (49752)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (791706)
7.55 The Slot. Viewers' video soapbox (857232)
8.00 Brookside (Teletext) (s) (6801)
8.30 The Real Holiday Show (Teletext) (s) (3868)
9.00 Dispatches (Teletext) (118771)
9.45 Holy Places: Sproxton Methodist Chapel. The last programme in the series. (Teletext) (s) (570145)
10.00 Northern Exposure (Teletext) (s) (3333)



A Chechen boy weeps for his family (11.00pm)

11.00 CHOICE **The Betrayed.** Documentary made by Clive Gordon (r). (Teletext) (s) (300597)
12.35am Moviewatch (r) (Teletext) (s) (7284917)
1.10 CHOICE **The Shooting Gallery.** Tonight's theme is *The Shortest Show On Earth*, begins with **The Holy Time** (4751511)
1.25 Para Recordar. New Zealand's first spaghetti western. In a town called Tenacity, a bandit reminisces about a lost love (4756066)
1.40 Under the Bridge. A homeless teenager finds a camera and depicts his world (5171424)
1.55 Seven Days Under Mavis. Based on a true story, the film explores emotional and physical ageing as a man lies trapped beneath the body of his dead wife. Directed by Anna Johnson. (2882288)
2.30 I Was Catherine the Great's Stable Boy captures a moment in history from the peasant's point of view. Directed by Stephen Leslie (s) (5259424)
2.35 Balthazar (b/w) tells of a boxed head that can foretell the future (s) (5391066)
2.55 Everything Is Like It Is. A satire on modern life directed by Julia Sara (8861220)
3.35 The Curious. A sinister story of distorted vision directed by Stephen Brown (r) (s) (57633882)
3.50 This Charming Man is director Meloni Poole's father, a miner turned inventor (s) (81964172)
4.15 Egoli. Anti-apartheid animation (r) (31304207)
4.25 Chicken Talk. A poignant look at the relationship between a grandfather and his grandson (Teletext) (31384443). Ends at **4.40**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 12.55 Coronation Street (2313110) **1.25** Home and Away (44582145) **1.55-2.20** A Country Practice (96210706) **2.50-3.20** Gardening Time (5566042) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2425400) **6.25** Anglia Weather (959619) **6.30-7.00** Anglia News (936) **12.10am** Short Story Cinema (3969627) **12.40** War of the Worlds (7861882) **1.35** Hollywood Report (2196240) **2.00** Shift (5507240) **2.50** America's Top Ten (4016627) **4.15** Nite Bites 4 (21079530) **4.30** The Time... the Place (11288)

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.55-2.20 A Country Practice (96210706) **2.50-3.20** Gardening Time (5566042) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2425400) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (639954) **12.10am** Short Story Cinema (3969627) **3.35** Jobfinder (864220) **5.20** Asian Eye (1947606)

GRANADA

As London except: 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (2313110) **1.25** Home and Away (88382597) **1.50** Vanessa (36280597) **2.20** Videofashion (1B168787) **2.50-3.20** Coronation Street (5566042) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (2425400) **6.25-7.00** Granada Tonight (987565) **12.10am-12.40** Coach (3969627) **3.35-4.35** Jobfinder (7087462)

HTV WEST

As London except: 12.55-1.20 Shortland Street (5647481) **1.20** Coronation Street (44583874) **2.50-3.20** Cooking at the Academy (5566042) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (2425400) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (936) **12.10am** Roadrunner (3969627) **3.35** Jobfinder (7087462)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 2.50-3.20 The Really Helpful Programme (5566042) **3.25-3.30** HTV Wales News (8043400) **6.30-7.00** HTV Wales Wales Tonight (936) **10.30-10.40** HTV Wales News and Weather (695936) **12.10am** European Club Rugby - The Heineken Cup (3969627)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Meridian News and Weather (2830446) **12.20pm-12.30** Meridian News and Weather (8570481) **12.55** Coronation Street (2313110) **1.25** Home and Away (44582145) **1.55-2.20** A Country Practice (96210706) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (5566042) **3.25-3.30** Meridian News and Weather (8043400) **5.10** Home and Away (2425400) **5.37-5.40** Three Minute Wonders - Freescreen (781145) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (684) **6.30-7.00** Put It to the Test (936) **10.30-10.40** Meridian News and Weather (695936) **12.10am** Good Advice (3969627) **12.40** War of the Worlds (7861882) **1.35** Hollywood Report (2196240) **2.00** Shift (5507240) **2.50** America's Top Ten (4016627) **4.15** Nite Bites 4 (21079530) **4.30** The Time... the Place (11288) **5.00** Freescreen (80086)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Westcountry News (2830446) **12.20pm** Westcountry News (8668929) **12.25-12.30** My Christmas Story (8588400) **12.55** Coronation Street (2313110) **1.25** Home and Away (44582145) **1.55-2.20** The Young Doctors (96210706) **2.50-3.20** A Country Practice (5566042) **3.25-3.30** Westcountry News (8043400) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2425400) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (41110) **10.30-10.40** Westcountry News; Weather (695936) **12.10am** The Hidden Room (3969627) **3.35** Jobfinder (7087462)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Calendar News and Weather (2830446) **12.20pm-12.30** Yorkshire: Calendar News and Weather / Bilsdale: Network North (8570481) **12.55** Coronation Street (2313110) **1.25** Home and Away (44582145) **1.55-2.20** A Country Practice (96210706) **2.50** Shortland Street (2292685) **3.15-3.20** Gardening Time (8127416) **3.25-3.30** Yorkshire: Calendar News / Bilsdale: Network North (8043400) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (2425400) **6.55** Calendar / Network North (317668) **6.30-7.00** Blockbusters (936) **10.30-10.40** Calendar News and Weather (695936) **12.10am** Film: Nick Knight (535231) **1.50** Hollywood Report (2109085) **2.20** Videofashion (2109085) **2.50** The Album Show (9338379) **3.50** Noisy Mothers (9765462) **4.45** Jobfinder (8562530)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (91752) **9.00** Film. Happy Landing (58503) **11.00** Home Fires (30023) **12.00pm** House To House (22597) **12.30** Widget (37961) **1.00** Sut Maithnn: Mistar Morgan (44408668) **1.25** Film' Twelve Angry Men (26271782) **3.10** The Montel Williams Show (2128329) **4.00** Think Tank (357) **4.30** Dosh (961) **5.00** 5Pump: Rownd A Rownd (6442597) **5.15** 5 Pump: Ffeil (3551139) **5.30** Fifteen To One (313) **6.00** Newyddion 6/ News (327481) **6.15** Hano (743394) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (177348) **7.25** Dim Ond Cell (312868) **8.00** 5 Comic Ar Drywydd Gwalia Gwyllt (6801) **8.30** Newyddion/news (3868) **9.00** Lloihor (7936) **10.00** Brookside (23226) **10.30** Northern Exposure (886394) **11.25** Dispatches (631394) **12.10am** Secret Lives: Badan-Powell - The Boy Man (2957358)

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the *Vision* supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am The DJ Kat Show (23503) **8.00** Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (32706) **8.30** Press 'Your Luck (51077) **9.00** Court TV (43239) **9.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (44077) **10.30** Concentration (85313) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (43139) **12.00** Jeopardy (59665) **12.30pm** Designing Women (82481) **1.00** The Waltons (87936) **2.00** Geraldo (12771) **3.00** Court TV (2348) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (8537313) **4.20** Undun (3726874) **4.40** Shool (5831058) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (3400) **6.00** The Simpsons (9936) **6.30** Jeopardy (6416) **7.00** LAPD (43291 **7.30** M*A*S*H (2400) **8.00** 1995 Billboard Music Awards (24435) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (30042) **11.00** Law and Order (20232) **12.00** David Letterman (8139517) **12.45am** The Untouchables (6584482) **1.30** Rachel Gunn (19375) **2.00-6.00** Hit Mix (7089153)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (9989077) **10.30** ABC Nightline (68955) **11.00** News and Business (399787) **1.30pm** CBS News (25400) **2.30** Parliament Live (70139) **3.30** Parliament Live (1394) **4.00** News and Business (88145) **5.00** Live at Five (35394) **6.30** Adam Boulton (23868) **8.30** Newsmaker (7226) **9.00** News and Business (987225) **11.30** CBS News (71787) **12.30am** ABC News (34172) **1.30** Adam Boulton (75240) **2.30** Target (73817) **3.30** Parliament Replay (78462) **4.30** CBS News (84062) **5.30** ABC News (36240)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (45394) **8.00 Girl Crazy** (1943) (96333) **10.00 Following Her Heart** (1994) (53597) **12.00 An American Christmas Carol** (1979) (99874) **2.00pm Sleepless in Seattle** (1993) (21394) **4.00 Sloppy and the Intruders** (1968) (1232) **6.00 Following Her Heart** (1994) (79145) **7.30 E! News Week In Review** (4868) **8.00 Sleepless in Seattle** (1993) (19503) **10.00 Nowhere to Run** (1993) (229935) **11.35 Wild Orchid 2** (1991) (283481) **1.25am Blood In, Blood Out** (1993) (68467085) **4.20-6.00 An American Christmas Carol** (1979) (5174682)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Across the Pacific (1942) (4936) **6.00 Shall We Dance?** (1937) (59810) **8.00 Jaws 2** (1978) (11955) **10.00 Sudden Impact** (1983) (99033348) **12.05am Inferno** (1978) (455820) **1.55-3.25 The Lovers!** (1972) (4054288)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Cinderella (1960) (43936) **8.00 The Phantom of the Opera** (1987) (44042) **9.00 Swiss Family Robinson** (1973) (85706) **10.00 Smiley Gets a Gun** (1958) (91139) **12.00 Tokyo After Dark** (1959) (97416) **2.00pm On the Buses** (1971) (29936) **4.00 Rockin' with Judy Jetson** (9874) **6.00 A Place for Annie** (1993) (32400) **8.00 Heart and Souls** (1993) (17145) **10.00 Hostile Hostages** (1994) (958685) **11.40 Untamed Heart** (1993) (361348) **1.25am Storyville** (1993) (280820) **3.20-5.20 Over the Line** (1992) (32492646)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

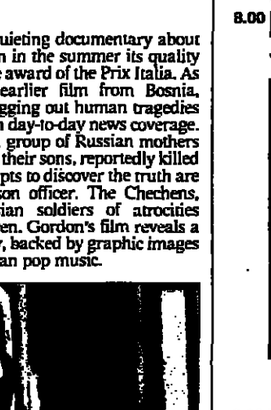
Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Umbrella Tree (45482597) **6.30** Muppet Babies (33494936) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (36257394) **7.30** Ducktales (36349329) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale (29636226) **8.30** Adventures in Wonderland (29638597) **9.00** Fraggle Rock (29725077) **9.30** Pooh Corner (63460481) **10.00** Dumbo's Circus (33581416) **10.30** Quack Attack (29714961) **11.00** The Best of Walt Disney Presents (96358077) **12.00** FILM: Breaking Free (93496752) **2.00pm** Wonderland (70378787) **2.30** Umbrella Tree (62366145) **3.00** Fraggle Rock (70384394) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (62361690) **4.00** Quack Attack (62284597) **4.30** Ducktales (62273481) **5.00** Chip 'n' Dale (70296139) **5.30** Danger Bay (62380981) **6.00** Tarzan (62367874) **6.30** Dinosaurs (62285226) **7.00** Flipper (69423961) **8.00** The Sinbad Show (70285023) **8.30** The Tortoisons (70377058) **9.00-10.00** Voyager (69429145)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Motors (67597) **8.30** Extreme (53400) **9.30** Skiing (96145) **11.00** Euroski (35077) **11.30** Ski Jumping (35732) **1.00pm** Eurofun **1.30** Basketball (65459) **2.00** Windsurfing (58597) **3.00** Adventure (34394) **4.00** Eurofun (3771) **4.30** Extreme Games **5.30** Cross-Country Skiing (21339) **6.30** News (4400) **7.00** Funsports (2313) **7.30** Triathlon (47313) **9.00** Supercross (84077) **10.00** Karting (61936) **11.00** Extreme (68416) **12.00-12.30am** News (42443)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (84400) **7.30** Racing News (76435) **8.00** Wrestling Mania (60058) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (80110) **9.30** Sports Unlimited (88435) **10.30** Snowboard Tour (86394) **11.00** Boots (89955) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (73974) **12.30pm** Football: England v Portugal (11874) **2.30** Pub Quiz (40223) **3.00** Skiff Sailing (2936) **3.30** Cricket Preview: third Test (54955) **5.00** Wrestling Superstars (9416) **6.00** Sports Centre (5752) **6.30** Grass Roots Rugby (2232) **7.00** Ice Warriors (98936) **8.30** Cricket: third Test (32481) **10.00** Sports Centre (74503) **10.30** Ice Warriors(47619) **12.00** Rugby (57375) **12.30am** Cricket: third Test (35462) **2.00-2.30** Sports Centre (30707)



Tom Hanks stars in *Sleepless in Seattle* (Sky Movies, 2pm, 8pm)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Rugby Hall of Fame (2041771) **10.30** World Cup Classics, England v Portugal, 1966 (4854435) **12.00** Blood, Sweat and Glory (3440511) **12.30-1.00am** Second Innings (8437590)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Our Century 1914/1918 (1431435) **5.00** History Alive: 1971 (4429706) **6.00-7.00** Biography: Bette Davis (2401348)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm Inside Space (4420435) **7.30** Sci-Fi Buzz (2000955) **8.00-10.00** FILM. The Philadelphia Experiment (6612787) **1.00am** Inside Space (1467917) **1.30** Sci-Fi Buzz (8789714) **2.00-4.00** FILM. The Philadelphia Experiment (2127917)

TLC

9.00am Toycraft (9250435) **9.30** Eat Your Greens (1175416) **10.00** Heart of the Country (6437416) **10.30** Giving the Empire a Lift (9256619) **11.00** Only Human (1772787) **12.00** Adopting Olya (9167771) **12.30pm** Jimmy's (11702232) **1.00** Eat Your Greens (1175503) **1.30** Toycraft (1175509) **2.00** Forty Something (6438145) **3.00** Heart of the Country (7163145) **3.30-4.00** Go Fishing (8702435)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (1779690) **7.30** Neighbours (1892597) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (9166042) **8.30** EastEnders (9165313) **9.00** The Bill (9156685) **9.30** The Sullivans (1178874) **10.00** All Creatures Great and Small (1681481) **11.00** Dallas (1774145) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (9249329) **12.30pm** Neighbours (1172890) **1.00** EastEnders (1778961) **1.30** The Bill (1171981) **2.00** The Sullivans (30496923) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (3269145) **3.00** Angels (7185503) **3.30** Eldorado (8608685) **4.00** Casualty (95933394) **5.05** Larry Grayson's Generation Game (41252894) **5.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (8482400) **5.25** EastEnders (2115348) **7.00** Eldorado (7084684) **7.30** Taxi (8617313) **8.00** FILM: Doctor in Trouble (57566139) **9.40** The Best of Top of the Pops (2311481) **10.00** The Bill (5356981) **10.35** The Best of Top of the Pops (2546110) **11.15** Special Branch (5135145) **12.20am** Dr Who (2238207) **12.50** Public Eye (7414563) **1.50** Triangle (31347172) **2.20** Shopping

TCC

5.00am Casper (31481) **7.00** New Pink Panther (19771) **7.30** Ready or Not (84526) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (34955) **8.30** Casper (8200655) **8.45** Dinobebies (63013348) **9.00** Tiny TCC (8052058) **12.30pm** Tiny TCC (59874) **2.30** Happily Ever After (4619) **3.00** Sonic (8394) **3.30** New Pink Panther (3936) **4.00** California Dreams (5771) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (1955)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Blue (27706) **6.30** Count Duckula (35690) **7.00** Betlink (1699042) **7.05** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (3620481) **7.45** Rugrats (3388881) **8.15** Doug (2035303) **8.45** Rocko (5508961) **9.00** Alvin (88752) **9.30** Pee-Wee (15938) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (63961) **11.00** Children's BBC (87597) **12.00** Rocko (71416) **12.30pm** Aaahhh!! Real Monsters (15972) **1.00** Ship to Shore (81312) **1.30** Mighty Max (85413) **2.00** Speed Racer (4771) **2.30** Galaxy High School (2685) **3.00** Count Duckula (8706) **3.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (7110) **4.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (9145) **4.30** Rugrats (5329) **5.00** Clarissa Explains It All (5023) **5.30** Wishbone (6481) **6.00** Doug (3394) **6.30** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (3954) **7.00** Ferris Bueller (8787) **7.30-8.00** Sister Sister (5058)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Human/Nature (8618042) **4.30** Charlie Bravo (8614226) **5.00** Man on the Rim (7081597) **6.00** Invention (8708619) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (1553597) **7.30** The Long Night of the Lion (8615955) **8.00** Connections 2 with James Burke (7164874) **8.30** Top Marques (7070481) **9.00** Seawings (5505690) **10.00** Heil Herbie (9168400) **10.30** Mad Dogs (9257348) **11.00** Voyager (1085868) **11.30-12.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer (6353400)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Thunder in Carolina (8444706) **2.00pm** The Saint (6352771) **3.00** Scotland Yard (7087771) **3.30** Man from Interpol (8799961) **4.00** FILM: The Best Man (7161787) **6.00** Death Valley Days (8785145) **6.30** The Critic (8813597) **7.00** The Critic (7079752) **7.30** The Protectors (8802481) **8.00** The Saint (5416752) **9.00** Sapphire and Steel (1153077) **9.30** Dead at 21

Italy lead stiff opposition

England face massive task in World Cup

By David Miller

ENGLAND found themselves up against the formidable, the familiar and the unfamiliar when the qualifying draw for the 1998 World Cup was made in Paris last night. A group of five including Italy, Poland, Georgia and Moldavia will mean a tough route to the finals in France.

Although Terry Venables described the confrontation with Italy as "exciting", the fact is that Italian technique always creates problems for the English and, although the Italians have just finished second behind Croatia in their European championship qualifying group, they will give England another anxious passage.

Italy beat England 2-1 in their last encounter, the World Cup third place play-off of 1990 in Bari, when David Platt scored for England and an unhappy Peter Shilton made a crucial error in goal, yet the abiding memory is of defeat in the World Cup qualifying competition of 1976-77 and in the opening match of the European finals in Turin in 1980. A bizarre selection by Don Revie in Rome in 1976, with six changes, saw England lose 2-0 and, by the time Ron Greenwood had succeeded the defecting Revie by the following autumn, a 2-0 victory at Wembley was insufficient. Three years later, Keegan, Wilkins, Coppell and the rest went down 1-0.

So much will depend, as ever, on the sequence of fixtures, home and away, that will be negotiated some time next month. Poland, who have just finished fourth in their European championship qualifying group behind Romania, France and Slovenia, are England's almost habitual qualifying rivals. This will be their fourth pairing in the World Cup — not to mention meeting in the 1986 finals, when England won 3-0 with a hat-trick by Gary Lineker in the first round in Monterrey — while they also met in the European championship qualifiers under Graham Taylor in 1990-91.

"We're fortunate to be in a group of five and not a group of six," Venables said last night, immediately before facing Portugal in the friendly at Wembley. "The draw's a bit complicated and it would have made more sense to have had seven groups of seven with the top two going through [instead of five groups of five and four groups of six].

"It's a tough group and our aim must be to top it. The prospect of two games with Italy is exciting and it wouldn't be the World Cup without facing Poland, yet the public by now understands, I think, that there are no soft games. Georgia and Moldavia are good sides, they'll be strong and it will be hard going."

Asked whether he would be in charge for the World Cup — he is due to see the Football Association in the near future to discuss an extension of his contract — a smiling Venables said: "That's another question, whether I'm in charge remains to be seen."

A 1-1 draw in Katowice in 1993 was one of the results that led to Graham Taylor's team failing to qualify for the World Cup finals in the United States. Ian Wright came on as substitute to score, but England went from Poland to Oslo, where they were defeated, Taylor making a selection more bizarre even than Revie's had been in Rome.

Georgia, who finished third behind Germany and Bulgaria in their recent European championship qualifying group, will be no pushover. Dinamo Tiblisi used to be one of the renowned Soviet club teams and Georgia put five goals past Wales at home, one of their five victories in that group. Moldavia finished fourth in the same European group, beating Wales 3-2 at home. Either of the away matches in eastern Europe could present a pitfall for England.

Scotland and Wales are also in groups of five, but Wales will be hard-pressed to make headway against Holland, Belgium and Turkey. Scotland, qualifiers for the European championship, are up against Sweden, but should finish no worst than second ahead of Finland and declining Hungary.

Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, said: "Let's just say it's interesting. There will be six tricky games but none of those sides will relish coming to Wales."

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, described his country's draw as "fair". "Sweden, having failed to qualify for the European championship finals, certainly won't want to fail again. They are going to be formidable opponents. Don't forget they were third in the world after the last World Cup so they're a very dangerous side, but I'd say it's a group we have a chance of winning."

The two Irish teams are both in groups of six. The Republic have the easier group, in which Romania are the seeded team, but Northern Ireland are up against Germany, Portugal and Ukraine.

1998 WORLD CUP DRAW

32 teams will take part

EUROPE
Fourteen qualifiers plus France, who qualify automatically as hosts
Group one: Denmark, Greece, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia.
Group two
Italy
England
Poland
Georgia
Moldavia
Group three: Norway Switzerland, Finland, Hungary, Azerbaijan
Group four
Sweden
Scotland
Austria
Latvia
Belorussia
Estonia
Group five: Russia, Bulgaria, Israel, Cyprus, Luxembourg
Group six: Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Yugoslavia, Malta, Faeroe Islands
Group seven
Holland
Belgium
Turkey
Wales
San Marino
Group eight
Romania
Ireland
Lithuania
Iceland
Macedonia
Liechtenstein
Group nine
Germany
Portugal
Northern Ireland
Ukraine
Albania
Armenia

Nine group winners and the best runner-up qualify for the finals. The other eight runners-up will be paired for play-offs with the winners qualifying for the finals

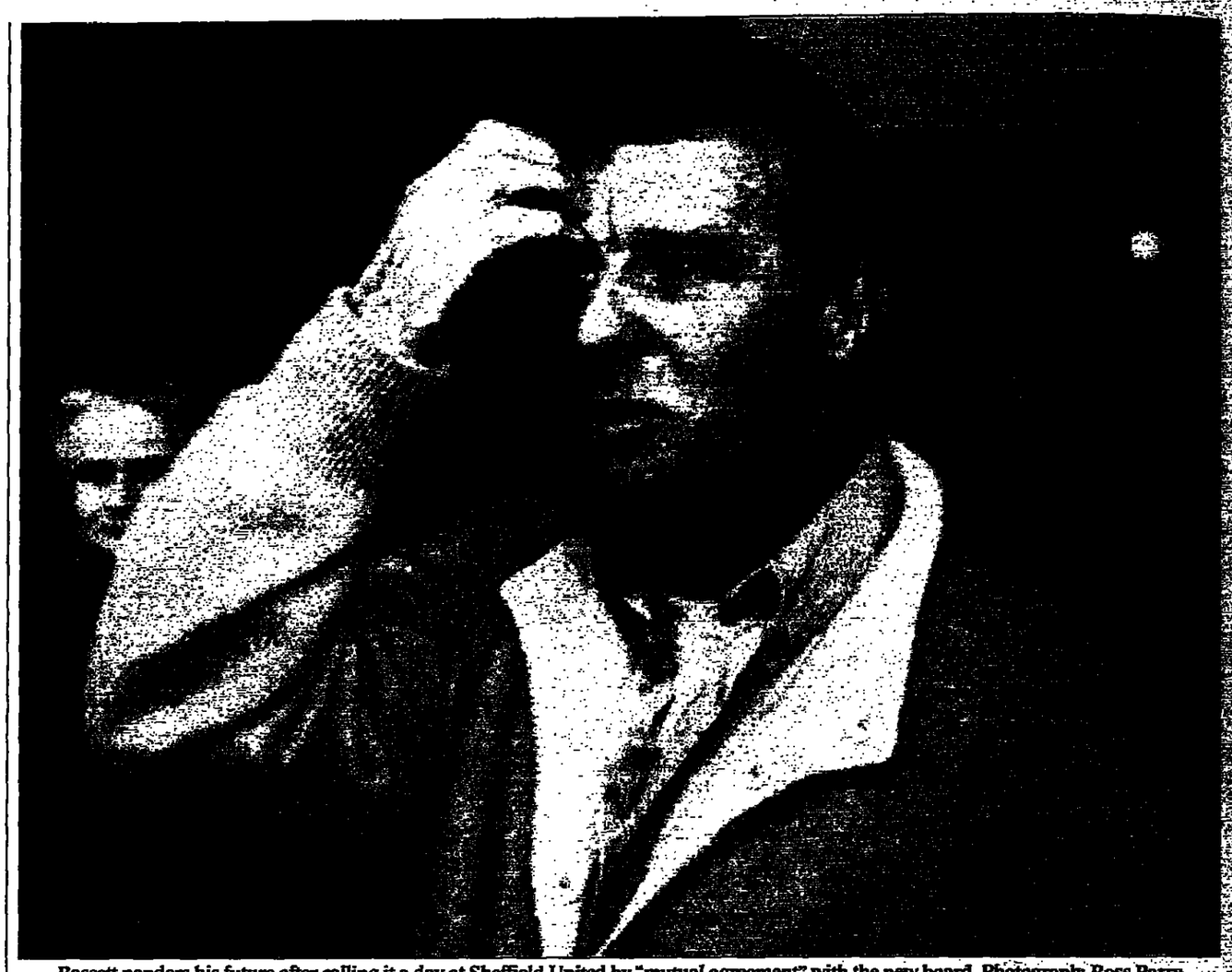
SOUTH AMERICA
Four qualifiers plus Brazil, who qualify automatically as champions
Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

ASIA
Three qualifiers plus one to play-off with Oceania winner

OCEANIA
Winner to play-off with fourth Asian team for place in finals

North and Central America
Three qualifiers

AFRICA
Five qualifiers



Bassett ponders his future after calling it a day at Sheffield United by "mutual agreement" with the new board. Photograph: Ross Parry

Bassett goes after eight-year reign

By Russell Kempson

ALL that three Endsleigh Insurance League first division clubs want for Christmas is a new manager. With the departure of Dave Bassett from Bramall Lane yesterday, Sheffield United joined Leicester City and Wolverhampton Wanderers in the search for fresh leadership, with 12 shopping days remaining to give their supporters the ideal seasonal gift.

Bassett, 51, left Sheffield United, who are second from bottom in the division, by "mutual consent" after eight years in the job. He is the thirteenth manager to leave his club this season and was immediately touted as the likely replacement for Mark McGhee at Leicester. McGhee, in turn, could to be installed at Wolverhampton today.

"I leave reluctantly, but with my head held high," Bassett said. "I know I've done my best with the resources made available to me. I feel it's best that myself and the club part company. The time is right and it is an amicable split on both sides."

Although Bassett led the club into the FA Carling Premiership from the old third division in successive seasons, and into the FA Cup semi-finals in 1993, he had become increasingly disillusioned with the lack of money for strengthening the team. Continuous board-room bickering, as a takeover rumbled on for months, only added to his frustration.

The ownership of the club has now been settled, with Mike McDonald buying Reg Brealey's 52 per cent interest last week, but it came too late to influence Bassett's decision. Stephen Hinchcliffe, the vice-chairman, said: "With the establishment of a new board, both parties felt that events had run their natural course. Dave has made an outstanding contribution over the past eight years."

A colourful, cor-blimey character, noted for his straight talking and succinct comments when used as a television or radio analyst, Bassett could not have left at a more appropriate time. Leicester and Wolverhampton are believed to be close to agreement over compensation for the loss of McGhee and his assistants, Colin Lee and Mike Hickman, who resigned *en bloc* last week.

Day of reckoning 44
Redknapp hits back 45

Yesterday, Martin George, the Leicester chairman, belatedly and reluctantly agreed to give Wolverhampton permission to speak to McGhee, the former Scotland striker, who left Reading, with Lee and Hickman, in similarly fraught circumstances a year ago.

Yet, although Bassett is favourite to take over at Filbert Street, Mike Walker, the former Norwich City and Everton manager, and Ian Porterfield, the former Reading, Chelsea and Zambia national team manager, have also entered the equation.

"Leicester haven't contacted me, but, if they did, I would be pleasantly surprised," Walker, who was dismissed by Everton 13 months ago, said.

"I'd be pleased to have a crack at it. I still think I've got a good pedigree as a manager. If you get offered a job, it's normally because a team is struggling; it would be a nice change to take over a team somewhere near the top."

Howard Kendall, another former Everton manager, has been mooted as a possible successor to Bassett at Brammall Lane. He has not worked since an unhappy three-month stint in charge at Notts County came to an abrupt end when he was dismissed in April — one of 54 managerial changes between August and May last season.

Chris Coleman, the Wales and Crystal Palace central defender, was also close to finalising a move yesterday, having been to Ewood Park for a medical that was expected to rubber-stamp his £2.8 million transfer to Blackburn Rovers.

Late attempts by Middlesbrough, West Ham United and Tottenham Hotspur to persuade him to join them appear to have failed.

At least Peterborough United, the Endsleigh Insurance second division club, had something concrete to report. Mick Halsall, 34, their caretaker manager since John Still resigned seven weeks ago, has been handed the task on a permanent basis.

United accused by Ball

By David Maddock

MANCHESTER UNITED faced fresh allegations of impropriety over their youth recruitment policies yesterday when Manchester City, their neighbours, accused them of poaching.

The poorer cousins from across the city have become disillusioned with what they see as a constant drain of talent towards Old Trafford. They will refuse to fulfil youth team fixtures unless things change.

Speaking out against the methods that he believes Manchester United employ, Alan Ball, the Manchester City manager, argued that his own club's youth development programme was being damaged. "Manchester United have been poaching kids from Manchester City, and it's something they have done for the past few years," he said.

The Football Association has already launched separate inquiries into claims that United illegally approached two schoolboys, Matthew Wicks, of Arsenal, and David Brown, of Oldham Athletic. A hearing is scheduled for the new year to consider the second case, after which verdicts on both should be announced.

Manchester City, too, have approached the FA with their reservations. They have seen several talented players make the short journey to Old Trafford in recent years, most notably Ryan Giggs and Nicky Butt.

Their anger was heightened recently when Steve Flitcroft, the 14-year-old brother of Garry, City's England under-21 international, left the club's school of excellence to join United. City will receive compensation for developing the player, although their rivals did not break any rules. The Maine Road club, however, are determined to take action against what they see as predatory behaviour.



Ball: alleges poaching

Francis Lee, the chairman, has spoken to the FA, and Ball said: "Our youth development officer, Terry Farrell, has written to United to complain and warn them to stop. I support him and in the letter he makes it clear that we will pull out of youth matches at all levels from 11 upwards if it continues."

Martin Edwards, the Manchester United chief executive, expressed surprise at the allegations. He said that he had had no contact with Manchester City, adding: "I know nothing about this at all. Really, there is little I can say until I am fully aware of the situation."

NBC televises Olympics for $2.3b

By John Goodbody

IN THE biggest deal in the history of international sport, NBC yesterday obtained the exclusive United States television rights for the 2004, 2006 and 2008 Olympic Games for $2.3 billion (nearly £1.5 billion). Since the American television rights now contribute only 50 per cent of the television income for the games, the world-wide fees for the two summer and one winter Games could total nearly $5 billion.

Even before the Games have been awarded to the three cities, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) accepted a surprise offer from NBC for the package, after the American network had secured the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney for $715 million (about £465 million) and the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City for $545 million (about £355 million).

Michael Payne, the IOC's marketing director, said: "It is a tremendous vote of confidence to the Olympic movement that a major network would make such a commitment so far out. It clearly provides financial security for the movement and to future cities bidding for the Games, knowing they already have the financing locked up.

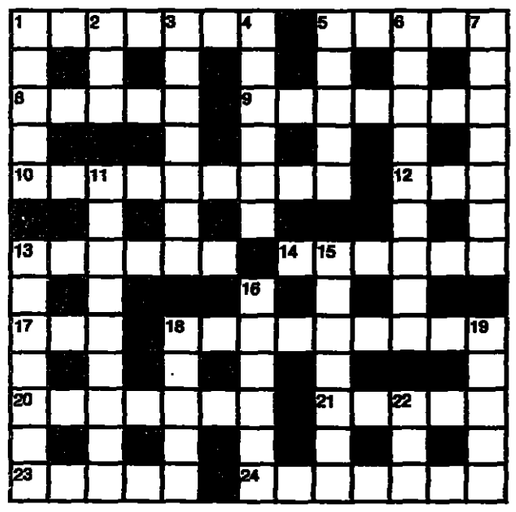
"The marketplace at the moment is particularly strong. We have learnt the importance of going to the marketplace when it is strong."

If Great Britain were to bid for the 2008 Games, then it could expect almost a billion dollars from United States television rights alone as its share of the three-way split when an indexing factor for inflation is taken into account.

Payne emphasised that the IOC's objective in selling televising rights was not primarily income but coverage, aiming for the widest possible access — a minimum of 98 per cent — in individual countries. "In the past, we have turned down higher offers from other broadcasters," he said. NBC will now televise six of the next seven games, the exception being the Winter Games in Nagano, Japan in 1998, which will be screened by CBS for $375 million (about £244 million).

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 651



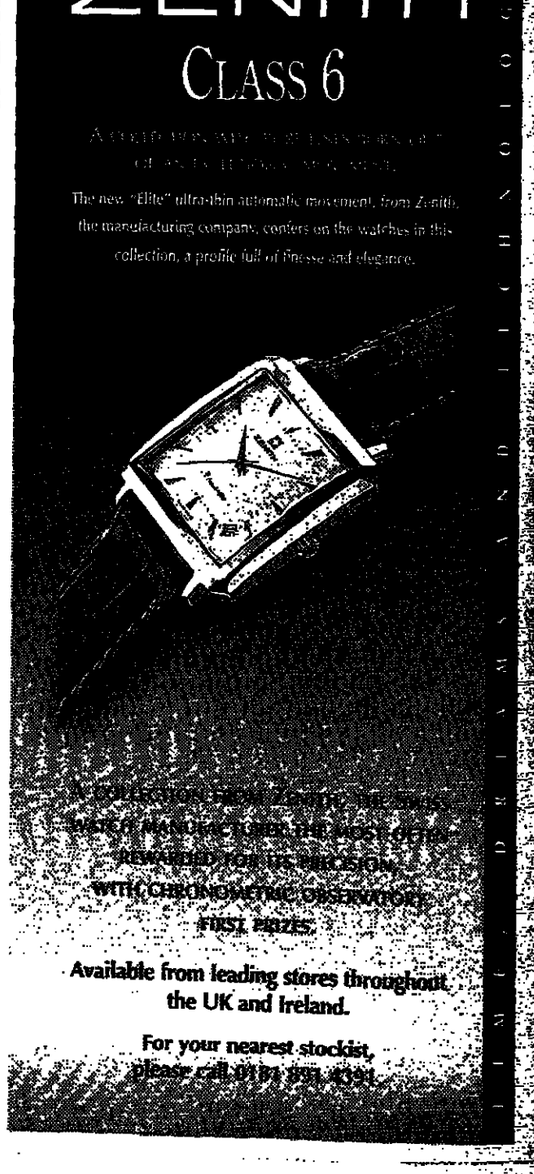
ACROSS
1 Low wall on roof (7)
5 Highlander's shirt frill (5)
8 Small, quick (car); keen (weather) (5)
9 Beat back (7)
10 Return; eh? (4,5)
12 Reverent fear (3)
13 Thickset (6)
14 Calls loudly (6)
17 Zero (3)
18 Be suspicious (5,1,3)
20 Brown coal (7)
21 Be useful (5)
23 Tax of a tenth (5)
24 King David's wise son (7)

DOWN
1 Terror (5)
2 Knock; rhythmic monologue (3)
3 Retaliate (3,4); investment return (7)
4 Jungle he-man (6)
5 Black lacquer; a country (5)
6 Lay siege to (9)
7 Conqueror of Minotaur (7)
11 Do second job; a piano sonata (9)
13 A vest (7)
15 Big, strong bag (7)
16 Alcove; adjournment (6)
18 Tapering superstructure (5)
19 Predator's claw (5)
22 Equip with weapon (3)

SOLUTION TO No 650
ACROSS: 1 Stampede 5 Obit 8 Outer 9 Suffuse 11 Sic 12 Lager lout 13 Recipe 15 Inured 18 Heartfelt 19 CIS 20 Ratchet 21 India 22 York 23 Heighten
DOWN: 1 Sponsor 2 Attic 3 Purple patch 4 Dosage 6 Boudoir 7 Treat 10 For one thing 14 Charter 16 Disdain 17 Fettle 18 Hurry 19 Cadet

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 646
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 1 Uphold 5 Kung fu 8 Bolt 9 Waterloo 10 Absence 11 Musty 13 Homo sapiens 16 Abash 18 Ca'canny 21 Lacerate 22 Raid 23 Deadly 24 Tingle
DOWN: 2 Pooh-Bah 3 Outré 4 Downcast 5 Kite 6 Nurture 7 Float 12 Apparent 14 Misdeed 15 Sundial 17 Blame 19 Apron 20 Hazy

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is C Ashpole, St Ives, Cambridge.
2nd PIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND'S domestic network is D S Pullin, Penarth, South Glamorgan. All flights subject to availability.



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